Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 242 | FRIDAY AUGUST 29, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should PSS put off the start of classes to mid-September when the power situation is expected to stabilize?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

18 DAYS until Sept. 16, when Aggreko generators are to start working

INSIDE

Politics at Work
It's a good time to review your employer's policies about political activities at work.

BUSINESS...Page 24

Historic Night
Barack Obama steps triumphantly into history, the first black American to win a major party presidential nomination.

NATION...Page 26

As Commerce chief, Santos had outside business. **PAGE 3**
Anatahan still unsafe; Fitial extends emergency. **PAGE 6**

No delay in start of classes

Sept. 8 opening of classes to push through

"Do not count on any kind of scheduling. Ignore the schedule. And I'm not being facetious. CUC puts out a schedule and you call it what you want to call it."

—Scott Norman, board members and principal of Calvary Christian Academy

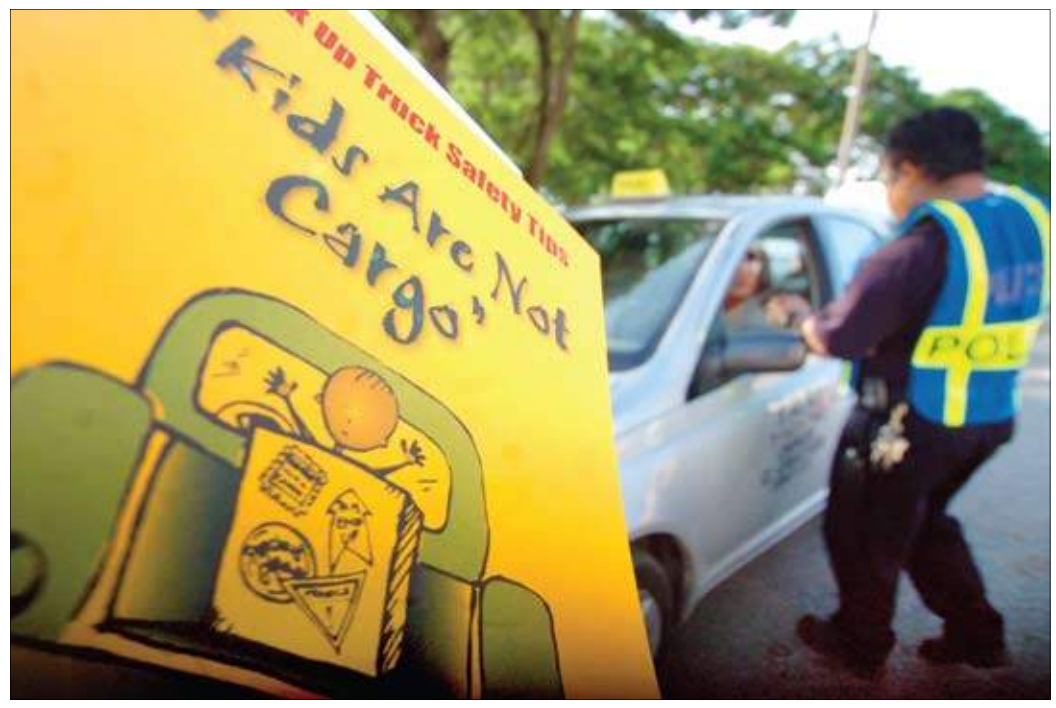
By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Blanco-Maratita

The first day of school for the Public School System will remain set for Sept. 8.

In a special meeting held yesterday, all five members of the PSS Board of Education voted to stick to the origi-

See NO DELAY on Page 4



CHECKPOINT JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Department of Public Safety's traffic officers give out flyers to motorists during the Occupant Protection/ Child Restraint checkpoint on Beach Road Garapan by BankPacific yesterday afternoon. This activity is part of the department's efforts to deter and detect and ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

Cells change identity in promising breakthrough

By MALCOLM RITTER
AP SCIENCE WRITER

ON THE NET
http://www.nature.com/nature

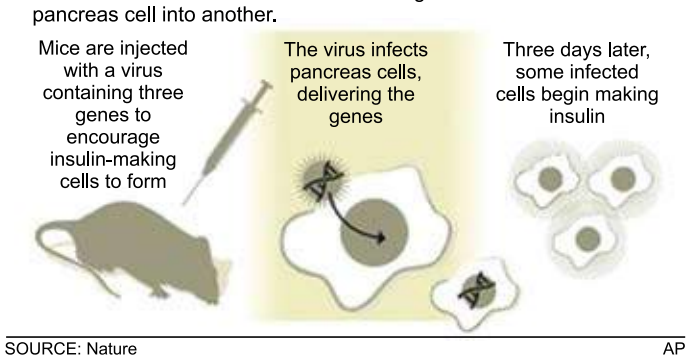
NEW YORK (AP)— Talk about an extreme makeover: Scientists have transformed one type of cell into another in living mice, a big step toward the goal of growing replacement tissues to treat a variety of diseases.

The cell identity switch turned

See CELLS on Page 4

Converting cells' duties in mice

Scientists have succeeded in transforming one kind of mouse pancreas cell into another.


Mice are injected with a virus containing three genes to encourage insulin-making cells to form
The virus infects pancreas cells, delivering the genes
Three days later, some infected cells begin making insulin

SOURCE: Nature AP

House leaders strongly oppose litigation

'Pursue negotiation, diplomacy before costly litigation'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie-delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The top leaders of the House of Representatives spoke in unison yesterday to express their strong opposition to the administration's request to support a lawsuit against the federalization law.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune,* Speaker Arnold Palacios and Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero echoed Rep. Diego T. Benavente's position that the Commonwealth should engage the federal government in dialogue instead of pursuing

See HOUSE on Page 4

CUC hires eight new workers

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

RELATED NEWS
'New generators will boost CUC revenue'
PAGE 5

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. hired eight additional nonresident workers yesterday, allowing CUC to bring engine 6 in Power Plant 1 back on line.

On Tuesday, CUC was down to just one engine, powering the island with less than 20 megawatts. CUC executive director Antonio Muña

See CUC on Page 4

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Local

Salas cites lack of data in bill to reserve Tinian public lands

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More information should have been presented before lawmakers passed the Senate bill that proposes to reserve a total of 524 hectares of pubic land on Tinian for agricultural homesteads and commercial use, according to Rep. Edward T. Salas.

"I don't oppose the idea of reserving agricultural parcels of land for the Tinian people as well as for commercial homesteads," Salas told *Saipan Tribune*. However, he voted "no" to the bill during Wednesday's House session because he said he feels that reserving 524 hectares of public land requires more information or data.

The representative from Tinian was not even in the session to at least give them his thoughts or comments, said Salas who, along with Rep. Christina Sablan, voted against the passage of the legislation.

The House passed it on a 13-2 vote. Senate Bill 16-37 now goes to the governor for approval.

Sens. Joseph M. Mendiola Luis P. Crisostimo, and Felix T. Mendiola introduced the bill.

"What was presented was basically just the idea that Tinian wants to reserve these hectares of land. There is really no committee report that came to us. We don't even know if the Department of Public Lands has commented on this proposal or what," Salas noted.

Salas said what he and Sablan wanted to see was to delay the voting for about a week or so until they have all the reports and information because they are talking here about reserving a big chunk of public land.

"Absent of any information, I voted no. But I'm not opposed to the idea because there is a need for agricultural homesteads on Tinian. And I guess the process is taking too long here on

See SALAS on Page 4

CAO hosts market to offset office expenses

With the economy in shambles, the Carolinian Affairs Office is finding other ways to help offset expenses and continue extending services to the public.

Toward this end, the agency started the Ocean-Site Market last Aug. 27 at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

CAO Advisory Committee member Catherine Perry Anderson said the market will be held every Wednesday from 5pm to 9:30pm.

Food will be served at a reasonable $5.

Crafts and other items are also on sale while entertainment numbers will make the day more exciting.

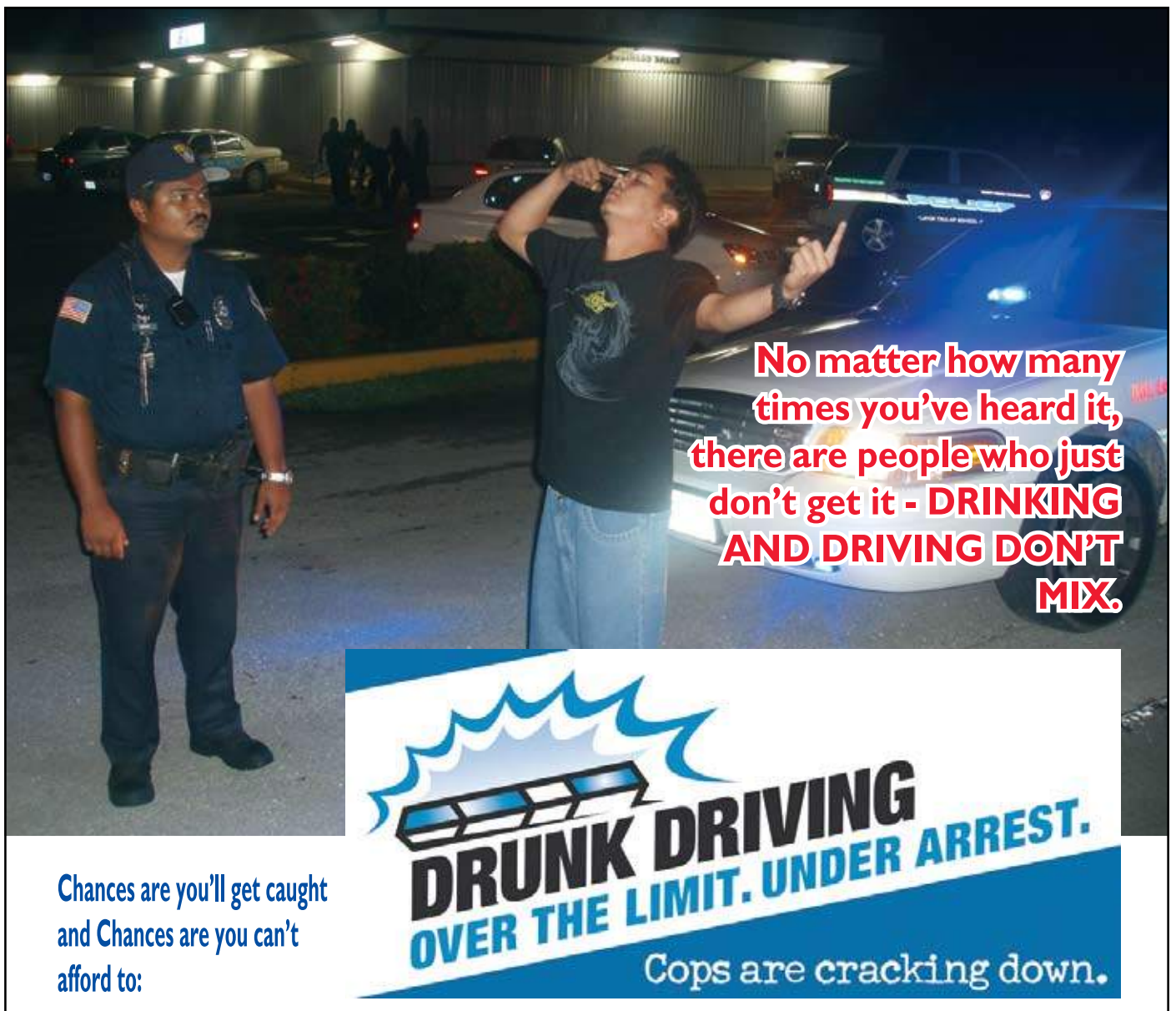
During the first hour of the opening day, at least six vendors were able to set-up their stalls for eager customer who availed of the low prices.

Felix Nogis, who is the coordinator for the market, said they came up with this activity to generate funds for office supplies and other related expenses.

He said they cannot always rely on federal funding.

Angie Iginoef Mangarero said the price of the meal the vendors offer is a good deal.

They are inviting the public to come to the market either to sell their products or as customers. ***(Nazario Rodriguez)***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The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities' Assistive Technology Program together with the Public School System (PSS)-SpEd JIT Members are co-sponsoring an Assistive Technology Fair on **August 30, 2008, 8:00am to 3:00pm at Aqua Resort, Raraina Room, Saipan**

The purpose of the AT Fair is to demonstrate and inform the CNMI community of the assistive technology devices and software that are available for individuals with print and learning disabilities.

We are inviting the Honorable Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Legislators, CNMI Government Department Heads and Executive Directors, parents, individuals with disabilities, family members of children with disabilities, care providers, and CNMI educators to attend. In addition, all PSS teachers (general and SpEd) who attend may earn professional development hours.

8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Guest Presenter: Ms. Eleri Hanley, Crick Soft Education Consultant will be conducting a product presentation on the following Crick Soft products:

1. Clicker 5
2. Clicker Paint
3. ClozePro
4. Wordbar
5. Penfriend
6. Write Online

12:30 p.m to 3:00 p.m.

Guest Presenters: PSS JIT members will be demonstrating the following assistive technology devices for print and learning disabilities.

Braille Assistive Technology Devices and Software:

1. Duxbury Braille Translation Software
2. Kurzweil 1000
3. OCR Scanner
4. Juliet Classic 60 Interpoint Braille Embosser
5. IVEO Talking Touch Pad
6. WindowEyes Screen Reader

Braille Writing Devices & Notetakers:

1. Mountbatten Braille Writer Learning System
2. Mimc LCD Visual Display
3. Jot a Dot Braille Writer
4. BrailleNote Braille Keyboard 18 Cells
5. VoiceNote with QWERTY Keyboard

Print Disabilities/Learning Disabilities Assistive Technology Devices & Software:

1. Victor Stream Daisy / MP3 / Memo Player
2. Kurzweil 3000 Color Scan/Read Software
3. Victor Reader Software
4. Don Johnston Solo: Write out Loud/CoWriter
5. Classmate

*** For more information, please call the CNMI Council on DD at 664-7000, 7041, 7042, 7044, 7005.**

Antonio C. Chong
Executive Director

John D. Arriola
Chairman

As Commerce chief, Santos had outside business

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

At the time James Santos was serving as Commerce Secretary—a job that required him to regulate corporations in the CNMI—he was also involved in private business dealings with a Japanese corporation and continued with them long after his appointment by Gov. Benigno Fitial, as shown in newly uncovered government documents.

According to an annual corporation report filed with the Department of Commerce and obtained by the *Saipan Tribune*, James Santos in 2005 was serving as a registered local agent for the T.M.T. Corp., a photography and photograph developing company owned by a Japanese businessman. His wife, Joaquina Santos, is also listed as one of the corporation's local officers.

Appointed first as acting Commerce secretary in January 2006, Santos continued to be paid by T.M.T. Corp. at least until around March 31 2006, as shown in a tax record that says he was paid $996.24 for the first quarter of that year.

Santos' involvement in the corporation continued well beyond his appointment as Commerce's official chief in May 2006, as noted in a Division of Employment Services and Training form he signed Nov. 11 of that year, which says he was still working as T.M.T.'s local "personnel manager."

In an interview Thursday, acting Commerce Secretary Michael Ada—who replaced Santos last week—acknowledged that his department regulates corporate interests in the CNMI, adding he has already divorced himself from outside business dealings to "avoid any conflicts of interest" that might arise in his new job.

"Ethics are subjective," Ada said. "I removed myself from any businesses that we regulate. I'm abstaining from entering into business simply because of my position. It's important that I don't put myself into a position that could be called into question down the road."

As a government appointee, he said, "I'm on the clock 24-7, so that leaves little room for me to conduct side business."

Earlier this month, authorities indicted the Santoses, Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez and former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony Guerrero on three counts of conspiracy, wire fraud and theft involving federal funds over an alleged scheme to pilfer thousands of dollars from CUC through needless chemical purchases.

Villagomez and the Santoses have pleaded not guilty. In a deal with federal prosecutors, Guerrero has pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and will likely testify when the case reaches a jury trial in October.

Attorneys for the Santoses could not be reached. James Santos declined to comment.

Speaker backs continued access to Chinese, Russian visitor markets

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios is pushing for the CNMI's continued access to the emerging Chinese and Russian visitor markets.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Palacios said he instructed Rep. Diego T. Benavente to look into the visa waiver issue and maybe come up with a joint resolution with the Senate.

The joint resolution, Palacios said, will urge the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to consider the CNMI's request for visa waiver for emerging tourism markets.

"Because those [federalization] rules will be in place [soon], I would like to be informed as much as possible as to what is going on. And I want to have access to this to look at how it is coming along," he said.

The speaker said he wants to ensure that the regulations will be beneficial to the intent of the federalization law and for the Commonwealth.

Palacios said after reading the recent joint report of the Marianas Integrated Immigration Task Force regarding the implementation of the CNMI-Guam visa waiver program, he believes that the Legislature must come up with a unified position on the issue.

The Task Force is committed to ensuring that Public Law 110-229 (federalization) is implemented in accordance with congressional intent to preserve and expand tourism to the island by preserving access to Chinese and Russian tourists for the CNMI and extending the same access to Guam under combined Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

According to the Task Force's joint report, the loss of the China and Russia markets would have a significant adverse impact on the CNMI's economy.

From 2008 to 2010, the report says, these two markets alone are projected to contribute a total of $1.01 billion in tourist spending, government revenues, and peripheral economic activities.

The report indicates that millions of dollars invested to attract and serve these two markets are in jeopardy if visitor access from these two countries are unreasonably restricted.

CNMI's tourism industry reportedly has invested approximately $35 million to market itself in China.

CNMI began welcoming Chinese tourists in 1998 under the Visitor Entry Permit process. The Commonwealth started catering to Russian tourists in 1996, also under the VEP process. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

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Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on September 4, 2008 at 6:00 pm, CRM Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Morgen Building, San Jose. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
B. Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
C. Public Hearings. None
D. Contested Cases. None
E. Permits and Related Actions - Review and Decide
   1. 2008-0908 A. Vekhov, preliminary plat, lot TR 2045/08 and TR 2044/08
   2. 2008-1197 Jesus G. Villagomez final plat, lot H34NEW
   3. 2008-1360 CUC Aggrecko conditional use permit application
F. Old Business
   1. Review and approve amendments to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps.
      i. Map 13, Various Lots on Lower Navy Hill re-zone from VC to MC
      ii. Map 26, Lot 045 K 01 re-zone VR to VC, file 2008-0820
      iii. Map 27, Lot 551 C 3 re-zone RU to MC, file 2008-1075
   2. Adopt Zoning Board Rules and Regulations
   3. 2008-0302 LaoLao Golftel - review progress on permit conditions
G. New Business.
   1. Review new rezone proposals and approve advertising for public comment.
H. Public Comment
I. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
J. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

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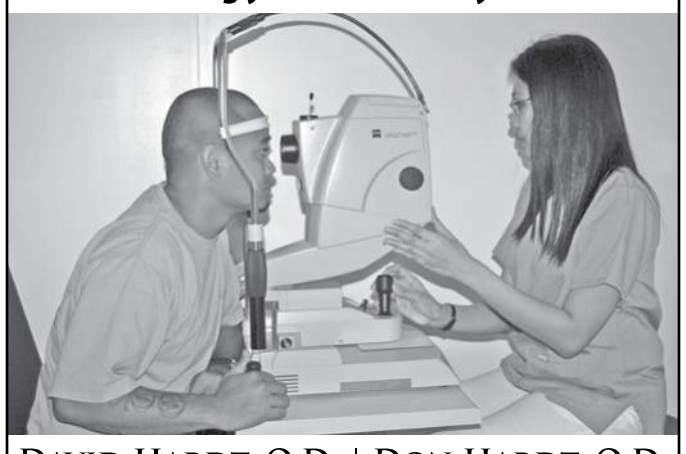

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RP Cabinet official meets Filipinos, Fitial

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A key official of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was here on Saipan for a two-day visit during which he met and heard some of the grievances of overseas Filipino workers and immigrants.

The meeting was originally scheduled at the Multi-Purpose Center Wednesday night but because of the power outage, the meeting was moved to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration office at the Nauru Building instead.

Dr. Dante Ang, who is chairman of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, also called on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday.

Fitial said he is honored to meet a member of the Philippine government's Cabinet. He said, "Dr. Ang is a very knowledgeable and an interesting man."

Finance Secretary Eloy Inos joined Fitial in meeting Ang and discussing a wide range of topics, including education, alternative energy, health care, business, and the CNMI economy.

Ang told the Governor that he likes the CNMI and plans to return for future visits. He left the islands yesterday.

Dr. Carmen Fernandez also joined Fitial and Inos in meeting the Philippine Cabinet member.

During the open forum with less than 50 Filipinos—mostly from the United Filipinos Organization—Ang said he is glad to relay Arroyo's message, saying that the President wants to thank the hard work of OFWs for keeping the economy afloat and maintaining social stability.

Ang, who is best known for being the publisher, president and chairman of *The Manila Times*, the oldest newspaper in the Philippines, advised them to be thankful to the government of Saipan for being a host country to them and keeping their dreams.

"Saipan has been good to you. Be loyal to Saipan for it embraces your dreams. This is your house and it houses your dreams. But don't forget that the Philippines is still your home," Ang told his enthusiastic audience, who aired some of their grievances such as social security payment processes, travel procedures, social benefits, immigration issues and other things.

Ang promised to relay to Arroyo some of their complaints but he explained that his mandate is primarily Filipinos who migrate to other countries not as contract workers but those who become citizens of host nations like the United States.

Ang has been to the Middle East, Europe and other parts of Asia for similar official visits.

He was invited by the UFO for this particular visit. Close to 15,000 Filipinos are living or working in the CNMI. UFO has 34 member-organizations.

Ang said Filipinos worldwide contribute heavily to the Philippine economy with a total of $12 billion remittances in 2007. This, he said, would reach an estimated $13 billion by the end of 2008.

"Every single Filipino I've met around the world talks about the success they achieve and how their employers respect their sacrifices," Ang said.

Ang was joined by Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo and UFO president Flor Miranda.

CELLS

From Page 1

ordinary pancreas cells into the rarer type that churns out insulin, essential for preventing diabetes. But its implications go beyond diabetes to a host of possibilities, scientists said.

It's the second advance in about a year that suggests that someday doctors might be able to use a patient's own cells to treat disease or injury without turning to stem cells taken from embryos.

The work is "a major leap" in reprogramming cells from one kind to another, said one expert not involved in the research, John Gearhart of the University of Pennsylvania. That's because the feat was performed in living mice rather than a lab dish, the process was efficient and it was achieved directly without going through a middleman like embryonic stem cells, he said.

The newly created cells made insulin in diabetic mice, though they were not cured. But if the experiment's approach proves viable, it might lead to treatments like growing new heart cells after a heart attack or nerve cells to treat disorders like ALS, formerly Lou Gehrig's disease.

SALAS

From Page 2

Saipan," he said.

Salas said maybe the Tinian people's needs are being ignored.

"I'm not so sure. We don't even know that. I would have voted yes if all the information is there," he stressed.

At the session, Sablan expressed the same reservations in voting against the bill. She suggested referring the bill to the Natural Resources Committee for further study, considering there is no sufficient report or data presented to them.

During the voting roll call itself, Sablan emphatically said, "For the people of the CNMI, no!"

Reps. Oscar Babauta and Raymond Palacios had also underscored the importance of obtaining more information first but, after a long deliberation, sided with the majority lawmakers.

Most lawmakers said they want to respect the leaders of Tinian who "know best what their people need for their island."

CUC

From Page 1

said the additional workers were able to help make engine 6 operational again.

The CUC maintenance staff has always been limited in how many hours they can work each day, Muña said. The additional workers "will allow for greater production and quicker time to bring the engines back up," he said.

He said it's important that employees working within the plants are able to focus and pay careful attention to their work.

"They're working in 110 degree temperatures," he said of the employees. "It's a hot environment. It's difficult work."

As of yesterday afternoon, engines 3 and 6 were working at Power Plant 1, while engines 2 and 8 were undergoing repairs, Muña said.

Earlier this week, Muña said engine 8 would be down indefinitely until new parts were purchased, but yesterday he said the new employees that were hired looked at the engine and found available parts that could be used to repair it.

Altogether, CUC was producing approximately 24 megawatts of power yesterday afternoon.

Also, Muña said, the Saipan International Airport is now receiving 24-hour power. Last week, the airport was without power for three hours, delaying several flights.

It's important visitors to Saipan are comfortable, Muña said, so CUC is focusing on ensuring the airport has power around the clock, as well as ensuring that the Garapan tourist district has power in the mid-afternoon and evening.

Yesterday, Muña returned from a trip to Guam to visit with their power plant manager to learn about their operating system.

"Essentially, we talked about their operation in respect to [privatization], and how that has improved production to use as a model for our long-term vision," he said.

Muña said CUC is still gathering information on privatizing CUC and figuring out what is in the best interests of the CNMI.

"It's not just about power production...[but] also affordability...those two are tied together," he added.

HOUSE

From Page 1

an expensive but uncertain litigation.

"My position is that I don't support this litigation option," Palacios said.

He said there are other problems the CNMI is facing that need to be addressed such as worries about tourism and the economy.

"Why do we need to worry about immigration when we cannot even have our power system up? That's the most basic stuff. No investors in their right mind would come here because of our power situation," the Speaker pointed out.

He said the potential impacts of federalization and how the law is crafted could be dealt with through negotiation.

"I believe that from the beginning. I do have faith that we can negotiate with federal agencies. If we can properly articulate our position and show them where we believe its going to impact our economy, we can knock on doors as what Benavente says," he said.

Palacios said the CNMI could obtain those concession without going to court right now.

He cited that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials were here with other agencies to hear the CNMI's concerns.

"It is now up to us to begin to articulate some of the concerns," he said. "Let's negotiate. Try to sell our points, try to convince. I'm sure there are people in the federal government that are going to listen."

Palacios said litigation is an expensive process and there is no likelihood the CNMI is going to succeed, not to mention how long this is going to drag on in courts.

For Deleon Guerrero, litigation should be the CNMI's last resort in dealing with the federalization law.

"It is always good to pursue diplomacy first," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he already told Palacios that, even with special legal counsel Howard Willens' presentation on the impact of the federalization law, some lawmakers are still unclear as to how it will interface with local labor laws.

Deleon Guerrero said he asked Palacios to invite Willens back, this time for more question-and-answer in order for them to have a better understanding of the issues.

The vice speaker pointed out that even though Willens talked about how much the lawsuit would possibly cost, the Fitial administration has not formally submitted a request to the Legislature for funding.

"I can't say definitely right now what our decision is. We will probably be sitting down to make that decision," he said.

Deleon Guerrero that, although there are merits to the administration's concerns, he feels that most lawmakers believe there are other options they could pursue.

"Litigation may perhaps be a last resort. We do have the 902 negotiation. To my knowledge, under this administration, there has not been any 902 consultation with the United States," he said.

The second recourse, Deleon Guerrero said, is the CNMI's opportunity to be included in the halls of Congress with the election of a delegate this November.

"Once we understand fully what the impacts would be and we get a clear understanding of how to address those impacts, perhaps one other thing to do it is introduce legislation in Congress," he said.

The third option, the vice speaker said, is to conduct further consultations with federal agencies that are promulgating the regulations.

"There's now three alternatives that we can do. The last resort is litigation," he emphasized.

It is just prudent on the CNMI's part, Deleon Guerrero said, to show the federal government those alternatives that are available to the Commonwealth.

"That is not as costly. And when those alternatives have been pursued, and if we are not successful and we do see there is a severe adverse effects, then perhaps then and only should we consider litigation," he said.

Willens conducted a closed-door presentation on Tuesday in the House's chamber, where he tried to convince the Legislature to provide funding of about $400,000 that he said the administration will need to pursue the lawsuit.

Willens said Fitial is interested in pursuing litigation to protect the CNMI's right to self-government under the Covenant.

He said the governor wants to consult with the Legislature before he makes the final decision.

Rep. Diego T. Benavente, chair of the House's Committee on U.S. and Foreign Relations, said CNMI should engage the federal in a dialogue, instead of pursuing an expensive but uncertain lawsuit.

NO DELAY

From Page 1

nal schedule, saying that, without a definitive assurance there would be power within two weeks, they were hesitant to push the start date back.

Gov. Benigno Fitial had asked board chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita last week to consider pushing back the start of classes two weeks or until reliable power becomes available to Saipan. Aggreko generators are expected to be operational by Sept. 16 or 17, adding 15 to 18 megawatts of power to the island.

"That is a troubling statement right there," said vice chair Herman T. Guerrero. "Two weeks over here can sometimes be two months. What, are we going to start at the beginning of [2009]?"

Blanco-Maratita asked board member Scott Norman, the principal of Calvary Christian Academy, if students are able to learn in an environment without power. Calvary has been in session for three weeks.

"We're not allowing it to hinder expectations. It's not comfortable, but they're learning, and we're making sure they're learning," Norman said. He said after three weeks of classes, he could give the board some helpful recommendations.

"Do not count on any kind of scheduling," he said. "Ignore the schedule. And I'm not being facetious. CUC puts out a schedule and you call it what you want to call it."

Commissioner of Education Rita Sablan said she believes administrators, teachers and students are equipped to handle the outages.

"The powerless situations, the schools have experienced this the last six months of school last year and prior," she said. "There are some recommendations made on what they can do during a prolonged time of outage."

Some schools are looking at moving classes outside and tying in physical activity with the lessons, she added.

Sablan said she met with all PSS principals last week and the consensus was to start classes as planned.

Board member Galvin S. Guerrero said he wanted to make sure all schools had backup water tanks and pumps, and would have working fire alarms if there was an outage. Guerrero was assured all schools have tanks and pumps, and the fire alarms were going to be looked into.

Governor Fitial respects the Board's decision, Charles Reyes, Jr., spokesman for the Governor's Office, said after the meeting.

"We were making a recommendation to consider [the idea] but they were not obligated [to follow it], given their constitutional authority," he said.

The Governor wrote the letter to inform the Board that CUC would not be able to provide 24-hour power if they start on Sept. 8, Reyes added.

Antonio Muña, executive director of CUC, said his recommendation was to push back the start date.

"With the problems we're having, we can't guarantee power even when we get one engine up," he said.

With the additional power needed for the schools, Muña said the possibility of an engine overloading is that much greater.

Forum preps biz for federalization, military buildup

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

The pending federal takeover of local immigration rules and the upcoming military buildup on Guam were key issues Thursday at a first ever business forum organized by the Commonwealth Development Authority and Department of Commerce.

The forum, held at World Resort, drew a significant crowd and included presentations on the impact of the newly signed "federalization" bill, immigration and labor issues and potential business opportunities in the region.

In opening remarks, Gov. Benigno Fitial singled out the major military expansion on Guam in the near future as a key chance for the CNMI to bolster its economy.

"While our local government works for adequate access to labor by dealing with the federal government, we must do what we can to innovate and survive these lean times," Fitial said. "We must take advantage of the opportunities that exist, as well as the opportunities we can expect to exist in the future."

Preparing the business community for the future and improving the government's relationship with the private sector, acting Commerce Secretary Michael Ada said, was the impetus for holding the event, the first of its kind in the CNMI.

"The whole purpose is to prepare businesses for the real-life challenges that they will be facing and that are facing the CNMI, along with preparing them for some of the opportunities," Ada said. "To me, this is a springboard to further workshops, further programs and further dialogues geared at the military buildup and geared at the development of local businesses."

In addition to the presentations, the forum got a motivational boost from entrepreneur Anthony Pellegreno and business writer Walt Goodrich, who detailed new local business opportunities like investing in the sale of local crafts, aquaculture and marketing CNMI-grown produce.

"I hope that people realize there are business opportunities out there that we have forgotten to explore," Pellegreno said. "People go looking for outside investors for businesses when they forget they have investment potential right here."

'New generators will boost CUC revenue'

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. should see a 20- to 25-percent increase in revenue once the new Aggreko generators are up and running, CUC executive director Antonio Muna said yesterday.

The Aggreko generators will allow for a more reliable power source for the public. The island is currently undergoing three- to four-hour rotating outages daily, with some villages experiencing outages of seven or eight hours.

The generators are expected to provide an additional15 to 18 megawatts of power. CUC is counting on Power Plant 4 to provide 14 megawatts, and Power Plant 1 10 megawatts, for a total of 39 to 42 megawatts.

The price of power for the month of September will decrease because fuel prices have gone down, but more people will be using more power, allowing for greater revenue for CUC, Muna said.

The first Aggreko shipment arrived last Saturday with spare parts and infrastructure pieces. The next shipment is expected to arrive Aug. 31, with two more shipments arriving Sept. 6 and Sept. 12. CUC will then turn on the generators and they should be fully operational by Sept. 16 or 17, he said

CUC paid Aggreko $1.5 million as a down payment to ship the generators. CUC must pay another $504,000 30 days after the last shipment arrives, which CUC will pay with incoming revenue, Muna said. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

BoG Christmas card contest

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam is now accepting entries for its 2nd Annual Christmas Card Contest. With a due date of Friday, Sept. 26, 2008, entries are being accepted from elementary and middle school students throughout Guam, the CNMI, Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"Celebrating a Green Christmas" is this year's theme, and the subject matter should tell a story about the importance of caring for our environment all year long. The medium is a 4X6 card entry using water colors, pastel crayons, colored pencils or acrylic paints only. Prizes are as follows:

First prize is $250; second prize, $175; and third prize, $100. Prizes also to include a gift basket of school supplies.

Contest rules and application are available at ALL ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS, at any Bank of Guam branch or its website www.bankofguam.com. ***(BoG)***

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Anatahan still unsafe; Fitial extends emergency

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Construction Management (CM) services for the Saipan International Airport Runway Rehabilitation Package II Phase I Project, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, AIP Nos. 3-69-0002-50/53.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. Construction management experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing construction management services promptly and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable and a valid CNMI business license.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., September 19, 2008.**

Statement of qualification must be submitted along with company brochures and completed U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

All inquiries must be directed to the Acting Executive Director of CPA. The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would in its best interest.

Submit the Statement of Qualification to:

Acting Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
PO Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA Date: August 19, 2008
Acting Executive Director

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.net
REPORTER

Due to continued volcanic activity on the island of Anatahan, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial issued a 30-day extension of his May 13, 2003, state of disaster emergency declaration for the island.

The issuance of the extension period is in accordance with the Emergency Management Office and the U.S. Geological Survey recommendations.

The extension means all travel to Anatahan is restricted except for scientific expeditions.

The latest update from the U.S. Geological Survey dated Aug. 21 said that seismicity remains low though occasional low-amplitude tremor bursts lasting minutes occasionally occur. No plumes have been reported.

Prior to that, on Aug. 20, there were a few low-amplitude tremor bursts lasting for two minutes.

Also on Aug. 21, there were two episodes of volcanic tremor that lasted for five minutes starting at about 4pm and 50 minutes of tremor starting at 4:50pm. It said, however, that subsequent seismicity returned to background levels.

"During times of northerly winds, the Anatahan plume, if present, could be directed toward the CNMI and Guam. If this happens, residents may notice hazy air conditions and smell sulfur. EMO will issue volcanic haze and sulfur advisories if appropriate," said Fitial.

Documentary on alien workers' plight in the works

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

A local filmmaker is launching a new documentary production this weekend delving into the lives of foreign workers who are the parents of U.S.-born children and the trials they face under the immigration system.

Foreign workers in the CNMI often face the prospect of repatriation to their home countries for a host of reasons yet the troubles this causes can be compounded when it happens to parents of American children, who are forced to make tough choices about what to do next.

"These people are my neighbors, my friends and my kids' friends," independent filmmaker Rabby Syed said in an interview Tuesday. "These people should have improved immigration status which will allow them to stay in the U.S. and take care of their U.S. citizen children."

Syed is aiming to address this issue in a new documentary film titled *Witness* due to begin filming in the near future and will host a gathering of parents Sunday at American Memorial Park in a bid to gain help on the project.

The film, he said, will consist of interviews with parents and children.

"My style will be simple and very natural because the issue is very natural," Syed said. "The people who watch will be able to put themselves in the situation of these families and share their pain."

Syed plans to present the film to the U.S. House and Senate, he said, in a brand of "signature campaigning through film" to gain assistance on the issue for foreign workers and their families.

Labor activist and former Coalition of United Workers president Irene Tantiado is also rallying support for Syed's project.

"This is for all parents out there who are sympathetic to this situation," said Tantiado.

The meeting Sunday will take place from 5pm to 7pm.

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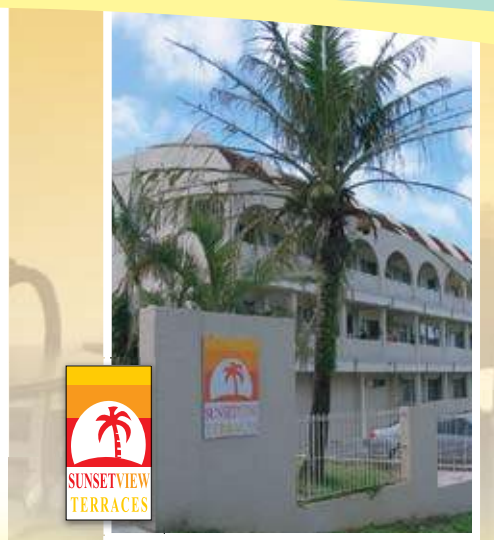

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Venue, date for Chamorro conference finalized

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Members of the Organizing Committee of the Third Annual Chamorro Conference pose after a press briefing during a meeting yesterday at the Office of Aging.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The organizing committee for the Tetset Konferensian Chamorro concluded negotiations early this week with the management of Saipan World Resort as this year's venue for the annual conference.

Committee members, including representatives from Guam, also finalized the date for the two-day conference, Sept. 26-27, in a meeting yesterday at the Office of Aging conference room.

The meeting was to discuss the final draft of the program for the conference to be hosted by Saipan for the first time.

The first conference was held in Guam in 2006; Rota was the host last year.

Zita Pangelinan said over a hundred Chamorros composed of students, teachers and members of government agencies and non-government organizations would arrive on Saipan and participate in the discussions.

"There's a lot of excitement among Chamorros on Guam," Pangelinan said. She estimated a total of 66,000 Chamorros in Guam including those living in the United States, Australia, the Philippines and other countries.

This year's theme is "Fana' gue, Na Metgot, Na'Famta' (Teach, strengthen and spread or propagate the Chamorro language).

Organizing committee chair Danny Quitugua believes that this annual conference would preserve the vanishing Chamorro language and culture.

The impact of outside influence on the Chamorro culture will be one of the major points they want to take up during the event.

"There's still pride in the culture. We are now realizing the need to act and now is the time," said one committee member.

Registration fee would be $35 (with giveaways for every participant) while students and senior citizens will be charged $5.

Exhibitors will be provided with 10x20 tent space and will be charged $5 per day.

House approves Youth Congress reorganization

The House of Representatives has unanimously passed a bill that would reorganize the composition of the CNMI Youth Congress.

With a 15-0 vote, House Bill 16-44 will go the Senate. Rep. Ralph Torres introduced the legislation as recommended by the Youth Congress.

Before voting "yes" for the passage during Wednesday's session, Rep. Christina Sablan asked whether the reorganization would incur additional costs for the government. Rep. Ralph Torres replied he does not see any.

Torres said the low turnout of voters requires this reorganization.

The bill proposes to move the election date of the Youth Congress in order to allow ample time for student registration and other necessities.

The legislation proposes to have one senator instead of three at precinct 1; one senator for precinct 2; one senator instead of three for precinct 3; one senator for precinct 4; one senator for precinct 5; and one senator each for Tinian and Rota.

With respect to school representation, the bill proposes that each private and public high school with a student population of 20 or more and want to participate shall have one senator.

Each participating private and public high school with more than 300 students shall have one additional senator for every 300 students over 300.

The bill also proposes to have one senator instead of three for NMC.

The legislation mandates a general election for the Youth Congress on the third Monday of October instead of September each year. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP08-DEQ-083

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"CONDUCT OF ASTM PHASE I AND PHASE II ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT OF BROWNFIELDS SITES ON SAIPAN, CNMI UNDER THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STATE RESPONSE PROGRAM AND BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANTS"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **AUGUST 15, 2008** AT THE DEQ OFFICE OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp.** THE DEQ OFFICE IS LOCATED AT THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, ON CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 A.M., SEPTEMBER 10, 2008 IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM 205.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER, SITE ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION BRANCH, AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL TO raymasga@deq.gov.mp. NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, SEPTEMBER 12, 2008.

THE CNMI LOCAL PREFERENCE LAW, CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 ***IS NOT AVAILABLE*** IN THIS PROCUREMENT BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY THE FEDERAL LAW GRANTING THE FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Officers cite DUI, seatbelt violators

The Department of Public Safety arrested two individuals for driving under the influence of alcohol during last weekend's checkpoints.

DPS Sgt. Paul Ogumoro said there were two arrests in Chalan Lau Lau Saturday—one on Middle Road and one on Beach Road.

"I think the number is indicative of public awareness of checkpoints," Ogumoro said. "We'll continue to conduct sobriety checkpoints as we are about to enter Labor Day and the holidays, especially back to school."

Ogumoro said police cited 16 individuals for seatbelt violations along Middle Road and 13 on Beach Road in Chalan Lau Lau.

When asked about the fact the public knows where the checkpoints are and might avoid those areas, Ogumoro said he doesn't think that is the case.

"It's part of deterrence," he said. "The point is if they know there is a checkpoint, I think they will be very careful in their drinking and driving."

Any citation or arrest is documented so it can be used in the future if necessary, he said. The Attorney General's Office may use the documents in court.

If traffic is slow, officers inspect about every third car. If there is medium traffic, about every fifth car is checked, and during high traffic, every10th car is checked, Ogumoro said.

Even without checkpoints, officers are still watching out for DUI violators, he said.

"They'll do what they have to do, pull over, conduct DUI process if they believe the driver is consuming intoxicating liquor," he added. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

Alien workers to discuss federalization

A group of alien workers will hold a meeting to discuss federalization and other issues before launching a cleanup on pathways along Beach Road this Sunday, Aug. 31.

Dekada president Bonifacio Sagana said the the cleanup drive will be from the Kilili Beach all the way down to the 13 Fishermen's Monument, where they will hold a barbecue picnic.

The cleanup is in coordination with the Division of Environmental Quality and Division of Parks and Wildlife.

Sagana said they want to help in making the pathway a safe place for joggers and walkers.

But before that, the group will have a short meeting to discuss issues regarding the ongoing federalization process for the CNMI, improved immigration status and its long-term implications.

The group has invited Rep. Tina Sablan and Stephen Woodruff as well as members of religious groups and other alien workers for these activities. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

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9. ATALIG, Felipe Norita Quitugua

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 29, 2000

Landowners to get full rebate

Landowners whose lands were bought by the government in cash are expected to be rebated the full amount of the tax they paid in the transaction following the signing of a new law by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

The move came amid lawmakers' concerns over potential unfair dealing when the government acquires a private land for right-of-way and other public use.

Under the normal practice, landowners who opt for land exchange do not have to pay taxes in connection with the transaction, while those who agree on cash compensation are taxed.

Jones wants Corrections, Fire Divisions out of DPS

The Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations is looking at the possibility of passing a legislation that will remove the Divisions of Corrections and Fire under the Department of Public Safety.

Rep. Dino Jones, chair of the committee, said the proposed measure will adopt the system in Guam where the Fire and Corrections were elevated to department level.

Teno nixes wider scope of state funeral

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has nixed a proposal widening the scope of those entitled to a state funeral under an existing law, citing the need to keep the "rare honor" given to few exceptional individuals in the island community.

A bill had sought inclusion of a long list of government officials who would be entitled to such ceremony, aside from those already in the list when the State Funeral Law was enacted last year.

August 29, 2001

Tanapag's PCB issue may reach UN Court

If the US government fails to immediately clear the areas in the Commonwealth that have been contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyl, Rep. Egredino M. Jones said that he will be forced to elevate the issue to the United Nations' International Court of Justice.

During an interview yesterday, Jones said that he will be writing a letter to the United States government and the US Congress to urge them to acknowledge the PCB problem and initiate action to resolve the issue.

First graders' reading literacy gauged

Public schools across the CNMI are expected to turn over next week results of the Reading diagnostic test which was administered to first grade students at the start of the school year.

Public School System officials are closely watching out for the outcome, expecting the results to paint a clearer picture of first graders' reading literacy.

Teno willing to report to the Commonwealth

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has expressed his willingness to deliver a State of the Commonwealth address, should the Legislature decide to hold a joint session expressly for this purpose.

"I leave it up to the Legislature. If they decide whether they want me to deliver my State of the Commonwealth report," Tenorio said. "Whatever the Legislature wants, I am ready and I will prepare the transmittal to the Legislature."

August 29, 2002

FDM bombings end today

This month's military exercises at the Farallon de Mendinilla Island end today with no advisory yet from the U.S. Navy headquarters on Guam whether the bombing exercises would be extended or a new schedule would be arranged.

Emergency Management Office deputy director Mark Pangelinan, disclosed this in a telephone interview yesterday.

This month's exercises comprised the first batch of trainings months after the military temporarily halted them due to an injunction by a federal court. The exercises began last August 4.

Lesson for everyone: Never play with "fire'

A fireman who apparently failed to put out his own "fire' and a marine sports crewman were arrested by authorities Tuesday on allegations of child sexual abuse.

The fireman and the crewman, who were separately accused of sexually molesting a minor in the first degree, were apprehended pursuant to the arrest warrant issued by Superior Court Judge David Wiseman.

Firefighter Norman Lawrence Tenorio, 35, and marine sports crewman Rex Rosokow Jose, 30, both from Tanapag village, were taken into police custody.

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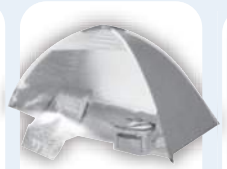

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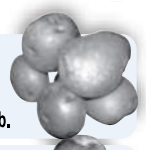

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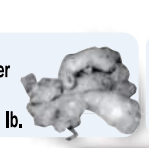

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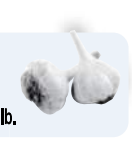

U.S. Garlic
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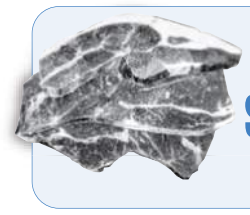
New Zealand Beef For Stew Family Bag 7lb.
$14.99



New Zealand Shoulder Steak Family Bag 8lb.
$15.99 /bg.

Chicken Leg Quarter 22lb./case
$19.99 /cs.

US Pork Spareribs 20lbs./case
$19.99 /cs.

New Zealand Mussels 1/2 Shell 2.2lb.
$5.99 /ea.

Diamond G. Calrose Rice 50lbs.
$34.99 /bg.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce 1.6 liter
$3.99 /ea.

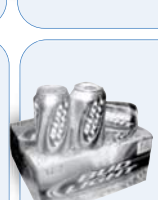
Hafa Adai Water 24/350ml.
$6.98 /cs.

ACE Diamonds Tuna in water 7oz.
99¢ /ea.

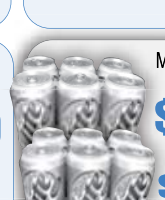
Soft N Gentle Bathroom Tissue 4 Roll
$1.99 /ea.

Zee Napkins 120 ct.
$2.39 /ea.

Cottonelle Bathroom Tissue 4 Roll
$1.69 /ea.



Bud Family Beer Can
$24.50 /cs.
$12.25 12pk.



Miller Family Beer Can
$24.50 /cs.
$12.25 12pk.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 242

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

UN farce

It has been almost a year since the world was stirred by thousands of Burmese monks and ordinary people taking to the streets to demand freedom—and being bloodily crushed by one of the world's cruelest regimes. Governments everywhere proclaimed that such violence and repression could not stand, and they insisted that U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon do something. Mr. Ban sent his special envoy on a mission with explicit goals: Secure the release of democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners, and help the National League for Democracy (NLD) to reopen offices throughout the country. The envoy, Ibrahim Gambari, just finished a sixth fruitless mission to Burma, and it is clear now that U.N. diplomacy has become a cover for inaction, not a pathway to reform.

Aung San Suu Kyi performed an extraordinary act of bravery during Mr. Gambari's most recent trip. The daughter of Burma's independence hero, she led the NLD to overwhelming victory when the regime last permitted elections in 1990s. The junta refused to recognize the results and has kept Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest for most of the years since. Last fall the regime promised Mr. Gambari that it would begin a dialogue with the democracy leader and allow her to meet with NLD colleagues. But supreme leader Gen. Than Shwe reneged on even that meager concession, and she refused to see the U.N. envoy on his latest trip, even as he hobnobbed with one regime crony after another. Since Aung San Suu Kyi is permitted no communication from her confinement, we can only guess at what motivated this snub. But it is likely that the indomitable Nobel Peace Prize winner decided, even at the price of intensifying her own frightful isolation, not to give further legitimacy to a process that was only dignifying the regime.

Not surprisingly, as Than Shwe has intensified the crackdown in his own country—and, let's not forget, refused international aid for victims of Cyclone Nargis this spring—U.N. and other international officials have decided to blame the victim. The prime minister of Thailand, which cultivates its own ties with the corrupt regime, on Monday urged other leaders to forget about Aung San Suu Kyi. A fig leaf of international process comforts the regime, those who trade with it—and those who give flowery speeches about democracy but resist action, such as an arms embargo. It is time for Mr. Ban to say that he won't allow the United Nations to be exploited and humiliated in this way.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Why are non-members permitted to exercise great influence over retirees' financial security?

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

I think the thing that bothers me the most about all the suggestions for changing the structure of the Retirement Fund, some of which have now resulted in the long term diminishment of the member's future financial security, is that some of those government officials, consultants and legislators offering their opinions and effecting change are themselves not members of the Fund's defined benefit plan.

If you are a retiree, or paying into the Fund as a member, I wonder if you also think about this intrusion into your personal life and financial future and that of your dependents by some people who are in the Commonwealth today in some official capacity but in all probability will be gone in a year or so. "Here today, gone tomorrow," so to speak. Or using an island saying, "What the tide washes ashore, it will one day carry away."

Much of the advice and influence from "non-member" non-indigenous advisors (and some legislators) has been advanced by people who have nothing to lose because they are not participants in the defined benefit plan. It's not their money that is effected by their decisions.

I don't know about you but, as a retiree, I just find something intrinsically wrong with a process that relies on the opinion of those who have no stake in the out come—for better or worse. This, of course, does not include those competitively selected and highly paid money managers who are closely monitored by Fund officials on their performance.

As a member of the Fund, the next time you encounter your representative, you might ask what he or she thinks of non-members influencing your future retirement.

The way politics appears to be shaping up in the NMI, there may well be a lot of changes and new faces on Capital Hill in a year or so. And what will the retirees be left with? Will it all have to be put back together again?

The way politics appears to be shaping up in the NMI, there may well be a lot of changes and new faces on Capital Hill in a year or so. And what will the retirees be left with? Will it all have to be put back together again?

The following article by one Erica Goode may shed some light on the situation. It was published by the New York Times Service titled: "Blunderers Think They're Doing Fine, Experts Say."

The article points out:

"There are many incompetent people in the world.

"Dunning, a professor of psychology at Cornell, finds from his research, most incompetent people do not know they are incompetent.

"People who do things badly, Dunning has found in studies conducted with graduate student, Justin Kruger, are usually supremely confident of their abilities—more confident, in fact , than people who do things well.

"One reason that the ignorant also tend to be blissfully self-assured, researchers believe, is that the skills required for competence often are the same skills necessary to recognize incompetence.

"The incompetent, therefore, suffer doubly, they suggested in a paper which appeared a couple years ago in the *Journal of Personally and Social Psychology.*

"Not only do they reach erroneous conclusions and make unfortunate choices but their incompetence robs them of the ability to realize it," wrote Kruger, now an assistant professor at the University of Illinois and Dunning.

"The findings", the psychologists said, support Thomas Jefferson's assertion that "he who knows best knows how little he knows."

So, if you are a retiree and have ever wondered about the actions of some people, their statements, actions, policies, etc., that just don't make sense and defy all reason and logic perhaps the above offers some insight. Your impressions have now been documented by a university study.

Editor's Note: Previous articles concerning the Retirement Fund and other subjects are available online in the Saipan Tribune*'s archives and can be accessed by entering the author's name—William Stewart—in the website's search bar.*

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Leaping into lethargy

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

One stale afternoon, while I was standing in line at a store in an airport terminal, an "Aha!" moment zapped me right in the head. This proves that my brain operates best with no sleep and plenty of caffeine, or, perhaps, that I spend way too much time in airports, but in any event, such was the genesis of my new business idea.

I had a full plate at the time, so I tried to smother my idea with neglect along with the stark fact that this was a manufacturing idea, while all of my background is, by contrast, in the service sector.

But the idea wouldn't stay down for long. One afternoon, motivated by an inspiring piece that Rik and Janel Villegas had run here in the *Saipan Tribune*, I starting working on the project. I didn't have the energy to even try to write a financial model for the venture, so I just scratched out a crude budget on the back of an envelope; such was the extent of my planning.

Thank goodness for the Internet, because one shock of need runs the whole world round. As luck would have it, a business owner e-mailed me, asking if I could write some English-language advertising copy for her. I cranked that out, and, as more luck would have it, she mentioned that she had worked for a European company in the very same industry I was planning to enter. We wound up striking a deal: She'd advise me on some technical aspects of the business, and I'd do some copy writing for her.

This is a small scale business, but, like a conceptual black hole, it seems to suck a lot of time out of me, probably because most steps are new to me. Product design, product manufacturing, product shipping, packaging design, packaging art work, packaging shipping, warehousing, shipping to customers, providing for returns from customers, UPC labels, those are some random things that come to mind. And, of course, marketing and sales, but I've been exposed to them before, albeit in different contexts. Anyway, most of this stuff isn't hard at all. But if any link in the chain gets broken, the whole thing is broken.

Just as things were starting to come together, and just after my sample product was being shown around, a link in the chain did break. That was last week.

I'd like to claim that I leapt into action and heroically rescued the schedule. But I leapt into lethargy. I don't know where the time goes with this little project, but, somehow, it just disappears, and I reached my threshold of tolerance.

Maybe there is some secret law of economics: The more seemingly trivial the endeavor, the more time it will absorb.

Is that merely a function of insufficient scale? If so, you can try to improve your time economies of scale by simply scaling up the project. More bang for the buck. And more bang for the backfire if something goes wrong. There is certainly some optimal scale, large enough to make it worth the effort, but small enough not to involve too much risk. And I'm sure entire books, or perhaps papers, have been written on the relative hazards of overproduction vs. underproduction, but just thinking about it makes me lapse back into my torpor. Ha!

Oh well, August is usually a stinker of a month anyway. It's never a good time for thinking. It's too late in the calendar to salvage the year. It's too early to really care about the upcoming year. And it usually means miserable weather in just about any place you'd care to go.

So I'm taking a break from all this. In fact, I'd take a break entirely, but I'm on the hook to write marketing copy for that lady today, so, even when I'm not working on my little project, it is still eating my time.

Some things just seem to take on lives of their own, which is the hazard, and opportunity, of getting ideas.

Promoting local entrepreneurship and business success

Editor's Note: The following is the text of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's remarks at the opening of the CDA-Commerce Business Forum, held at the Saipan World Resort yesterday, Aug. 28, 2008.

By BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Benigno R. Fitial is the governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Welcome to the 2008 CNMI Business Forum sponsored by the Commonwealth Development Authority and the CNMI Department of Commerce.

I am proud of the efforts made by CDA and Mike Ada, our new Secretary of Commerce, to organize this event for the benefit of our local community.

The CNMI today is struggling through an economy in transition. With the collapse of our manufacturing base and the imposition of federal immigration and minimum wage legislation, our old model of economic development, which has worked so successfully over the past 20 years, is broken. We can no longer expect to have liberal access to foreign workers in order to grow our economy, and our minimum wage rates are no longer set by local authorities based on prevailing local market conditions. These policies are now in the hands of un-elected federal agencies in Washington, D.C. This is an enormous challenge indeed. And this enormous challenge is further compounded by our public utilities problem.

While our local government works for adequate access to labor by dealing with the federal government, we must do what we can to innovate and survive these lean times. We must take advantage of the opportunities that exist, as well as the opportunities we can expect to exist in the future. The Federal government has restricted our labor force, a considerable factor of production, to be sure, but we can still make use of our land, innovation, entrepreneurship, and human capital, while we strive to secure reasonable access to needed labor.

To have a successful economy, we need land, labor, capital, and entrepreneurship. We need education, skills, knowledge, and technology. We need successful enterprises and a skilled and educated workforce. We need the rule of law, reasonable regulations, and the proper incentives, including reasonable fees and tax rates. We also need the proper physical and legal infrastructure for businesses to flourish. Our economy and our government will never succeed without successful and profitable business enterprises.

How do we attract and develop more CNMI businesses? How do we improve our economy? These are legitimate questions for today's business forum and I encourage your full participation in coming up with answers or even more questions for us to consider.

I expect this forum to be an opportunity for dialogue between the public and private sectors. We are all confronted by the same challenges and we must work together to find our way forward to a more prosperous future.

In the wake of the collapse of our manufacturing base, one of the most promising opportunities we see before us is the multi-billion dollar military build-up in the coming years. How do we best capitalize on such opportunities? That is also a question for us to discuss in this business forum.

What can we do to promote more local entrepreneurship and business success? What threats and opportunities can we find in the current economic environment?

I look forward to hearing your considerations and I thank you for your participation. Please take full advantage of this forum to learn how we can improve our business climate by working together toward the common goal of reaching greater levels of prosperity and economic stability. Thank you for attending this forum.

Letter to the Editor

Fitial and Willens suing the Feds: Brilliant!

I want to thank Governor Fitial and his "freebie" legal counsel/advisor/guru/charm instructor, Howard Willens, for their quest in suing the federal government.

Forget open government. Fitial and Willens do what politicians do best...hold secret "OBN members only" closed-door meetings, because Lord knows, they would not want the media and our community to have access to what they are really talking about. Apparently, we're too dumb to handle the truth, so they had to have a closed-door meeting to work on solving our current economic and power crisis by suing the federal government.

Ah yes, the evil federal government. Damn those feds! I just read that the U.S. Department of Energy is working hand in hand with Guam on renewable energy alternatives. What a milestone for Guam...or so they think. Renewable energy is over-rated! We like being completely dependent on oil! Never mind the Department of Energy and the rest of the feds. We got our caped crusaders, Fitial and Willens, who are going to sue them!

Sure, the CNMI is flat broke. And yes, it will cost us only $400 thousand, which will mostly be used to explore the idea of whether or not we have a case at all. But hey, it is a priority! Howard Willens told our hard-working "rollin' up our sleeves" lawmakers that federalization will cost the CNMI $400 million! Jesus, Maria, Jose! That's almost as much as we've spent trying to fix CUC over the past 16 years! Why wouldn't we trust Howard? He is a CNMI Founding Father, assisting with the development of our Covenant and Constitution! He is our Moses, who will lead us out of the desert and into ... darkness? Eternal damnation? The pits of hell?

Since finding the $400,000 seems difficult, may I make a humble suggestion to Howard? Jot down CUC, NMC, PSS, and CHC on pieces of paper and put them in a hat, and then have one of our brilliant House or Senate leaders pick one agency from the hat. Bingo! Whoever you pull, you take out that $400,000 from their budget!

What's that you say? Some teachers and parents are begging to spare PSS? As Vice Speaker Joe Guerrero says, "Quit your bitchin'!" All we need to do is follow Governor Fitial's advice and delay school for another two weeks. In fact, why have school at all? Why can't we just eliminate school altogether and teach our children valuable lessons in life? May I suggest the following courses?

Panhandling 101. Get our children to stand on the Microl intersection and beg for money. Why not? By the way, the younger the better. As we say up at the Legislature, "If they are old enough to stand, they are old enough to put out their hand." Forget safety! So their lives are endangered. We need to keep our eye on the prize! We need to teach our children that it is better to beg than to work for money! Who needs to mow lawns and wash cars and sell hot lunches when you can simply beg for cash?

Successful Resumes 102. I cannot understand why our teachers continue to teach our children useless resume tactics. Let me suggest that we eliminate "Work Experience" and "Education." Instead, get down to what really matters when applying for a job here in the CNMI. Put down how you are related to the boss or bosses at the government agency you are applying to. The closer you are related, the higher your salary and position! *Biba primo! Biba* nepotism! A prerequisite to this class is Butt Kissing 101.

CNMI Politicians 103. This is a very important class none of our kids can afford to miss, and it can only be taught by seasoned, experienced politicos! It is a grueling course, and it takes major discipline, but the rewards are out of this world! The sky is the limit in this class, baby! You will master important skills in this class, especially in debate. Whenever your opponent is crushing you with words and logic, simply shout out, "*Basta fan*, Lone Ranger! You're so full of nonsense! Quit your bitchin'!" If that isn't working, roll your eyes, shout a few obscenities, pound your fist, and storm out. Other parts of the course include learning to ignore the problems of the CNMI, how to stack 20 tables in a truck, how to become an excellent golfer, how to get your slush funds advanced to you, how to hire ghost employees, how to acquire a yacht at government expense to use in the fishing derby, and how to always get reelected no matter how incompetent you really are. A prerequisite to this course is Biba Koruption Tactics 101.

Don't worry about the other agencies because they don't really need the money. CHC? "Come on, par. Just send our sick to the Philippines." CUC? "Power is not necessary as long as we have Spam and canned tuna and soba because they don't need refrigeration." NMC? "Para hafa i post-secondary education, kumaire? How many times have I told you? It's not the degree in education; it is the degree in relations."

King Fitial and Howard Willens, you are so brave and so brilliant. Forget the fact that we now talk about power onnages rather than power outages, and that everything has gone to hell in a hand basket. We must be strong and we must unite and we must brave the storm. We must all pledge to support the CNMI's very own caped crusaders!

Biba, King Fitial! *Biba*, Founding Father Howard Willens! *Biba*, Better Times 2009!

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

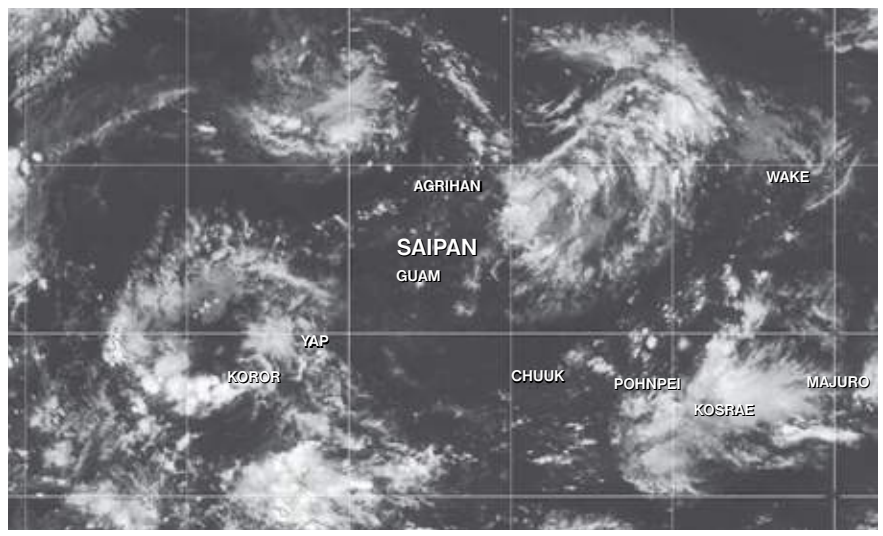
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89	▼78
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲59	▼43
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼68
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲91	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼76
London	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼59
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼66
Manila	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼54
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲91	▼81
New York	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼68
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼74
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼64
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼67
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼64
Salem	Sunny	▲83	▼54
San Francisco	Sunny	▲83	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲88	▼68
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲82	▼73
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲81	▼71

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northward from EQ140E to 10N140E. Trade-winds converging near and west of the trough axis are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Koror and Yap between the equator and 10N from 130E to 140E. A surface trough angles southeastward from a weak circulation centered just south of Iwo To (formerly Iwo Jima) at 25N142E to another circulation centered east of the Northern Marianas at 18N152E then northeastward to end at 22N160E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with the circulation near Iwo To (formerly Iwo Jima) are occurring north of a line from 22N134E to 22N142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough and circulation east of the Marianas are found mainly south of Minami Tori Shima within 200 miles of a line from 15N150E to 21N158E to 25N161E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over a broad area of eastern Micronesia within 175 miles of a line from 3N157E to 10N178E. This area includes Pohnpei and Kosrae states as well as the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:15AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
5:15AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
12:39PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
7:35PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:04AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:04AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:05AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:05AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:14AM	5:20PM
Saturday	5:13AM	6:02PM
Sunday	6:08AM	6:42PM
Monday	7:01AM	7:20PM
Tuesday	7:52AM	7:57PM

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Hey YOU!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE AND OTHERS!

CNMI YOUTH CONGRESS

YOUTH OF THE CNMI, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
The CNMI Youth Congress is looking for young, bright, hard working individuals, between the ages of 14 – 20, to combat the daily issues facing the youth of the CNMI. Become a Candidate or Register to vote for your representative. ***ACT NOW! YOU MUST BE HEARD!***

Registration deadline:
September 10, 2008

Candidacy deadline:
September 10, 2008

Election Day:
September 15,2008

You may register at your respective private or public schools, NMC or with the CNMI Youth Congress Office.

For more information, please contact the CNMI Youth Congress Office at 664-8845

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MEAL PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT OF BENEFITS SY 2008-2009

The School Breakfast and Lunch Meal Program provide healthy, nutritious meals with all the food components to make a complete meal. A nominal meal of $.50 per breakfast and $.75 pre lunch will be charged at schools participating in the School Meal Program for meals when school reconvenes. This a reduced price made available through federal grants.

Children from families that are below or meet federal guidelines are eligible for one free breakfast meal one free lunch meal everyday as the school is in session. An example of income eligibility using the federal free meal income table is printed below. A household with two children and two adults are considered a household of four persons and thus will qualify if combined monthly income is $2,297.00 or less.

Applications to receive free meals are available at the schools and the PSS Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) office located on Saipan: 3rd floor, Retirement Building, Capitol Hill; on Tinian: Tinian Elementary School, and Rota: Rota Jr. High School. Parents should fill out an application, provide supporting documents and return it to PSS FNS office or at the school office where their child/children attends if the parents think they may qualify and wishes for their child/children to receive free meals. Application cannot be approved unless a complete application and all supporting documents are submitted. Applications must be submitted every school year regardless if your child/children was/were receiving free meals in the previous years. **Children who received free meals last year have 30 days from the first day of school to submit applications and are eligible for free meals during this 30 day grace period.**

Families whose children are currently receiving assistance from the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) will qualify for the School Meals Program but still need to complete an application yearly. However, please be informed that the PSS – FNS conducts a direct certification with the NAP to ensure your children are in the program. If not all children are receiving food stamp, you must provide income sources (2 recent check stubs, SSI, retirement pension, etc). Completed applications will be processed within ten working days upon receipt. The PSS FNS office will notify you of your application approval or denial. The food services management company vendors will be provided a confidential list of students qualified for free meals.

Applications may be verified of reviewed at any time during the school year. Households receiving free meal benefits must notify PSS FNS office during the school year of any decrease in household size and/or any increase in income over $50 per month or termination of NAP benefits. **Households may apply for free meal benefits any time during the school year as circumstances change such as in cases of unemployment.**

In certain cases, foster children are eligible for free meals regardless of household income. If you have such children living with you and you wish to apply for such meals for them, please contact the PSS FNS office.

All applicants who are denied benefits have the right to request a conference to discuss the situation, present information and obtain an explanation of the submitted application or a decision rendered. Applicants may also appeal this decisions by contacting the PSS FNS office.

The PSS FNS office can be reached on Saipan: 237-3033/3060/3055/3088 or fax 664-3717, Tinian: 237-4106/4105 or fax 433-0455, Rota: 237-4046/4047 or fax 532-4020. Please feel free to call us if you would like to get more information on the free meal program.

"In the operation of child feeding program, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age or disability

/s/ Craig Garrison
Acting Commissioner of Education

/s/ Dorinda M. Salas
Acting FNS Administrator

MICROL TOYOTA

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

2000 CELICA 2DR
Manual, Blue, Stock: U08-043P
License: ABZ838
Mileage: 72097

PRICE
$7,999

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
GM CARS								
R08-005F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	114073	BLUE	ACB-544	6,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	7,599
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	28,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~11,899~~	10,999
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	~~12,499~~	11,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
U08-035T	2000	NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4DR SDN	AUTO	64846	GREEN	ABS-748	6,999	
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	7,099
GM SPORT UTILITY								
U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	9,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	~~14,599~~	12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	~~19,185~~	19,099

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TOYOTA ACDelco

Letter to the Editor

Betrayal Day: August 24, 2008

August 24th, 2008 was not a particularly good day for the people of the CNMI. On this day, we discovered that we were betrayed by the Pew Environmental Group (Pew Charitable Trusts). An AP story reported that the proposed Marianas Trench National Marine Monument was short-listed as a potential national monument site that *could* be designated prior to President Bush leaving office on Jan. 20, 2009. The federal government is going to spend a whole two months in assessing whether to proceed with the designation process.

On March 20, 2008, when the proposed national monument issue was beginning to heat up, the Pew CNMI Coordinator stated in a letter to the editor: *"... there will be a lot of discussion about this project. I suspect there will be presentations and public hearings. There will also be rumors and lies."* As of Aug. 24, 2008, Pew has fulfilled their prophecy.

Do you remember when the Pew CNMI Coordinator assured the people of the CNMI that, should the monument become controversial, or not be supported by the CNMI government, the President will not follow through with the monument designation? A refresher follows:

"*The White House has been in dialogue with the various private groups, such as Pew Environmental Group, and is going to make a decision within the next week or two as to whether or not they should start looking at potential monuments that are not too controversial. The joint resolution puts the CNMI proposed project in the "too controversial to be considered" column.*" (LTE, dated April 30, 2008, in both local CNMI newspapers).

"*The White House will not consider any proposed project that hints of controversy*." (LTE, dated April 30, 2008, in both local CNMI newspapers)

"*We've also been very clear that there are other areas under consideration and that the President is likely to choose those areas that are non-controversial and supported by a majority of the people*." (The Saipan Blog; May 28, 2008; titled "Where we stand")

"*NPR did a story today on an "Unprecedented Conservation Program". One of the areas under consideration for this proposed conservation program is the Mariana Trench National Monument. The story corroborates what we've been saying since day one, that the President is looking for Monuments that are non-controversial:..*." (The Saipan Blog; May 24, 2008; titled "Mariana Trench Marine National Monument")

For us living in the Marianas, it is painfully obvious that the Pew campaign has become fraught with controversy. Their rhetoric has degraded to personal attacks and name calling in the local blog scene and in our local newspapers. Even local reporters have labeled the Pew campaign as "*controversial*" (July 19, 2008; "Pew ramps up marine monument campaign" *Saipan Tribune*) and "*highly controversial*" (Aug. 25, 2008; "Praise, calls for talks after Bush marine monument proposal," *Saipan Tribune*). The Kaselehlie Press (FSM newspaper) has echoed the same sentiment: "*The Pew Charitable Trust has presented a proposal for consideration. It is a proposal that has met considerable resistance.*" (July 23, 2008; "National Marine Monument proposal in CNMI faces opposition").

Resistance to the Pew monument proposal has come from all levels of the CNMI, including the majority of our government leaders. This is the one of the few times in recent history when the various political groups have actually supported each other and arrived at the same conclusion—the national monument proposal by Pew is not wanted. Evidence of CNMI government opposition includes:

1. Letter from CNMI Gov. Benigno Fitial to Jay Nelson (Pew Charitable Trusts), dated March 19, 2008;

2. Letter from Gov. Benigno Fitial to President George W. Bush, dated April 29, 2008;

3. Joint CNMI Senate/House Resolution No. 16-04, dated April 2008 (*included in Gov. Benigno Fitial's letter to President George W. Bush*);

4. Letter from Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas to President George W. Bush, dated June12, 2008;

5. Letter from Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela to President George W. Bush, dated June 9, 2008;

6. Letter from Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos to President George W. Bush, dated July 15, 2008;

7. Letter from Northern Islands Mayor Valentin I. Taisakan to President George W. Bush, dated June 6, 2008; and

8. Letter from CNMI House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Senate President Pete P. Reyes to President George W. Bush, dated Aug. 6, 2008;

With the extent of controversy the Pew monument campaign has caused in the CNMI, how could it be possible to have the Mariana Islands monument site included on the presidential short list? Didn't Pew promise the CNMI that the President would not consider controversial monument sites? What happened? Based on previous claims, we can assume that Pew was being less than truthful to the people of the CNMI. This should not come as a surprise to those who have followed the Pew campaign from the beginning.

We should not forget the lessons learned on Betrayal Day—Aug. 24, 2008—the day when the Pew Environmental Group took advantage of lies in order to advance the creation of a "*blue legacy*" for President Bush and to further their own anti-fishing agenda. The Pew monument proposal is not about science-based conservation, but U.S. mainland politics directed at a member of the U.S. family who has no political clout. Pew's objective was to disguise this political "bitter pill" as a conservation project—a Trojan horse—so it would be easier to deceive the people of the CNMI. If the Pew national monument is designated, the year 2008 will certainly be remembered as the Year of Federal Takeovers.

John Gourley
Navy Hill, Saipan

NOTICE

Effective Today

United Micronesia Development Association (UMDA)

Corporate Office is now located at:

PALMS RESORT SAIPAN, SAN ROQUE

P.O. BOX 5235

SAIPAN, MP 96950-5235

TEL: 670.322.8632 FAX: 670.322.1000

KIA 2008 Summer Sales Event

The New 2008 Kia Rio

"HIGHEST RANKED SUB-COMPACT CAR IN INITIAL QUALITY, TWO YEARS IN A ROW" —J.D. Power and Associates

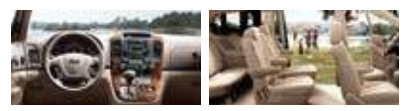
The Rio comes standard with class-leading safety features, including six airbags, impact-absorbing steering column, front and rear crumple zones and side-impact door beams. And, best of all, you'll get outstanding estimated highway fuel economy of 35 mpg.

The Award-Winning Sedona

A RECIPIENT OF THE CONSUMERS DIGEST BEST BUY AWARD

"★★★★★" 5-STAR CRASH SAFETY –NHTSA

The island's most affordable 7-passenger mini van is available now. The Sedona is designed to be safer, roomier and packed with a wealth of style, luxury and convenience features to get you and your family from one adventure to the next. Sedona comes standard with six strategicly placed airbags positioned throughout the vehicle to give you and your family peace of mind.



2007 MODELS CLEARANCE

NISSAN	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Versa HB	#7L360734	Blue	$15,990.00
Versa S	#7L398849	White	$15,990.00
~~Frontier SE~~	~~#7C40890~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$26,990.00~~

KIA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Rio~~	~~#7629237~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$12,995.00~~
Sportage	#77354358	Jade	$17,695.00
~~Sorento~~	~~#6560698~~ SOLD	~~Green~~	~~$18,995.00~~

FORD	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Ranger~~	~~#7PA3111~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$16,990.00~~
~~Fusion~~	~~#7R11405~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$19,990.00~~
Escape	#7KB29539	White	$19,990.00
~~F-150~~	~~#6NB857~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$21,990.00~~

HONDA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Fit~~	~~#7S03198~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$14,995.00~~
~~Fit Sport~~	~~#7S03110~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$16,495.00~~
Civic DX	#7L061948	White	$16,995.00
~~Ridgeline~~	~~#6H56662~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$29,990.00~~

Joeten Motors 30th ANNIVERSARY

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TEL. 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. **EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

Letter to the Editor

A lesson for the Legislature

I was premature. Today, the people of Tinian woke up to another revelation. We now learn that the Tinian delegation is creating, rather has created, a 140-hectare lot on public land in Chalan Famalao'an for commercial and other purposes—"as determined and approved jointly by the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, the Tinian Municipal Council, and the Tinian Legislative Delegation." As a smoke screen, the sponsors of the legislation also propose(d) to designate a reserved area on Pina containing 384 hectares for agricultural homestead lots.

Thank you members of the CNMI Legislature for letting the people of Tinian have a say in the conduct of their own lives. Did you take the time even ask if there had been a proper public hearing on Tinian for such an important issue? There was not. Yet you took it upon yourselves to suspend the standing rules and pass the measure anyway, with no input from the public.

Representative Sablan was right on when she stated that the bill should be referred to the appropriate committee for public hearing, just as the House standing rules require. The public remembers well the highly publicized hearings called by the Legislature for other public land leases, attempting to demonstrate fiduciary responsibility. Yet, for their brethren, they let this one slide through.

Mr. Editor, I would ask you to please do the people of Tinian a great favor, and perhaps teach a lesson to the Legislature. Have a reporter visit the Department of Public Lands and obtain a copy of a map of the southeastern quadrant of Tinian, which includes both the Pena and Carolinas Plateaus, probably the most lucrative lands in a future, properly developed Tinian. (It is unfortunate that neither the governor nor the mayor of Tinian have seen fit to create a master plan for the development of Tinian. But then, the concept of planning has never been considered before, why start now, *neh*?)

On the map, outline in red or the most distinctive color the mayor's proposed Famalao'an development area. Draw in the demarcation lines for the military retention area in another color. And use yet another color to overlay the existing water and power distribution lines, especially the water tank at Carolinas Heights.

What becomes obvious is that the bill was designed to create a readily available commercial lease opportunity to be controlled by "the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, the Tinian Municipal Council, and the Tinian Legislative Delegation," all Covenant Party. As soon as the governor signs the deal, the mayor will begin handing out leases to family, friends and supporters faster than the clerks can record them.

On the other hand, the area designated for the people, including his own employees, the agricultural homestead lands, are miles from the nearest water supply. Where is the money going to come from to pay for the surveying, creating the roads and, most of all, lay a water line to the homesteads? The cost is huge. The money is not there. The mayor and other elected officials will get ready access to their commercial area, but the people will die of thirst before they will see water on their homesteads.

Had the Legislature taken the time to properly study the issue, they would have discovered that there is a good location for an agricultural homestead that could be developed at far less cost and be usable almost immediately, with the proper management of local resources. It might not serve the ulterior motives of the mayor, the delegation and the municipal council, but it would be ideal for the people. That is the plateau just above Carolinas Heights Village, near the island's main water tank.

Also, please ask your reporter to inquire of our delegation what happened to the West San Jose Village Homestead that has been on the books so long? Bunches of money have been spent creating it.

The problem is it was designed for a sewer system that never materialized. The land is already set aside and surveyed. All that needs to be done is redesign the lots to make them suitable for the islands' current septic tank system and they could be allocated. At least that would help a few of the people. Unfortunately, following through on paper work doesn't seem to be one of the mayor's or the delegation's strong points. It requires work.

We do look forward to seeing the map.

Good to hear there are more FBI agents arriving.

Sixteen months and counting.

Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Statewide Independent Living Council
3rd General Membership Meeting
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950
TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL:voc.rehab@saipan.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2008 Third General Membership Meeting on Friday, August 29, 2008- 10:00A.M., at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Chamolinian Room. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Welcoming

II. Preliminary Items
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of Minutes of 04/09/08

III. Report
- Chairperson
- OVR Director
- Trip Reports

IV. Old Business
- Resource Allocation Plan
- Unfilled Vacancies

V. New Business
- Onsite Review by RSA
- Council Proposed Status

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment

Jerry McVicar
Jerry McVicar
Statewide Independent Living Council Chairman

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require special accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters/etc., are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

Publication of this notice is supported by federal funds under the United States Department of Education, Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 08-032

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of **Bottled Water and Delivery Services**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-032" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than September 26, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-032, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3) copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI business license.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-035

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **MiniDV/HDV Camcorders and Accessories for Garapan Elementary School (GES)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-035" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **September 24, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-035" CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.**

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Dr. Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 08-025

The Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Purchase and Delivery of Mobility Equipped Vans.** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP #08-025" containing one (1) original and four (4) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than September 16, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP #08-025, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and four (4)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

General inquiries may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3062 / 3035.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Ramon DLG. Diaz, Jr.
Acting, Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting P & S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Request for Proposal
RFP 08-026

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement of **Sign Language and Interpreting Services**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 08-026" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than September 18, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 08-026, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1) copy). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.**

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Juan Babauta
Acting P & S Officer

Letters to the Editor

Seeking help for missing items!

Now that the burglars who robbed our place on Capital Hill are behind bars, I would like to ask the public if you know or know anyone who has bought any of our missing belongings from the burglars sometime between Aug.20 and Aug. 22. We've learned that our belongings have been sold to random people at the time so please come forward with our things. You can contact me at 484-6069 or boss_628@yahoo.com or return them to the detectives.

■ Compaq Presario Laptop & Charger from DRTO along with a black and white LG mouse in a black laptop bag. We have important documents in the laptop and need it immediately!

■ Black Sony PS2 game console (thin version) with one black controller with plugs. Has one PS2 game (Prostreet).

■ Gray Trutech portable DVD player with initials J.A.E. and C.C on the outside of LCD screen. Has minor scratches.

Whoever bought our belongings, please return them. I have contacted all the pawnshops on island and they are very well aware of the things we are looking for.

Christine Santos
Capital Hill, Saipan

Make the monument a reality

I am 19 years old. During my entire high school, my Pacific history class didn't give me enough information about our Northern Islands. For this reason and more, I am in full support of the marine monument. I wish to further my education in marine biology and work for my people of the Commonwealth. I really want to know more about this area that is so close yet so far. I think that if the area become a monument, marine scientists from around the world will come to our island to explore the area. They will share their knowledge with students like me in high school, and perhaps I could work with them on some of their projects. This would be a real opportunity for me and other students like me. I ask all the people of the islands to work together to make this monument a reality so that we can all benefit.

Belinda A. Norita
Chalan kanoa, Saipan

An outrage

Four months ago, I wrote a letter to the editor about the constant power outages that continue to destroy home appliances and interruptions in cable TV and Internet services.

Many are not receiving the full service they deserve yet they are being billed for the full month charges. I have urged the Legislature to look into this because of the many people who continue to be cheated by these companies, let alone CUC and the government. It is my understanding that CUC is being paid for the use of each telephone pole by cable TV and for the Internet.

When you were all voted into office, you promised to help the public. I don't remember anyone of you doing something about this injustice that continues to this date. I want a response to my letter from each of you for this outrage and what you intend to do about it.

Juan M. Cabrera
Afetna, San Antonio

Thanks, President Bush

I am writing to express my heartfelt thanks for your recent announcement regarding potentially protecting 115,000 square miles of the Northern Mariana Islands as a marine monument. We look forward to working with you in the months ahead as you formalize your decision.

The potential to protect this unique marine area is exciting for many reasons. A significant portion of the Marianas Trench, known as the Grand Canyon of the ocean, would be protected from harmful extractive activities. This area is home to seabirds, endangered sea turtles, as well as coconut crabs, the largest land-living crustaceans.

Such protection would enable this area to act as a nursery for Pacific fisheries. Fish stocks of all kinds would benefit from such a safe haven. Since the northernmost islands are currently protected by our Constitution, extending such protection to the surrounding seas would benefit not only the people of CNMI, but also all those who fish the high seas of the Pacific.

The people of CNMI would benefit in numerous ways. For example, the potential for increased tourism is enormous. Already, CNMI attracts visitors from the world. Having the second largest marine reserve in our backyard would provide an added incentive for visitors from around the world to visit our islands.

Such a reserve would also attract marine scientists of all kinds. The potential and research activities and increased understanding of ocean environments is enormous. Both tourists and visiting researchers would need visitor services, and such economic activity would be a true boon for our struggling economy. We look forward to such activity being based on Saipan, as our economy is currently struggling.

This marine monument has the potential to significantly enhance CNMI's reputation throughout the world as a place not only to visit, but also as a place of conservation and of learning. We look forward to working with you in the months ahead to make this dream a reality. Our children and our children's children will thank you. Si yu'use ma'ase.

Ignacio Cabrera
Chairman, Friends of the Monument

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2*6*18 Dougalas regular	$12.90	2*6*20 Dougalas Treated	$18.90

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Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
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Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. BENIGNO T. FEJERAN, Defendant.	Civil Action No. 07-0230 **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 11, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property, Lot 031 T 03, located on the island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 26,244 square meters, more or less, as shown on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 031 T 00, which was recorded on October 22, 1976, as Document No. 5640, at Land Registry office in Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on October 3. 2008, at the hour of 1:30 pm, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.

b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Birds. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 503758 CK, Saipan, NT 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit: Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due Page 2 of 3 within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at die commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 12th day of August 2008.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Wonenberg's work will soon grace Chinese city

Residents of Changchun, capital of Jilin Province in the northeastern part of China, will soon be marveling at sculpted masterpieces designed and built by local Northern Marianas College art instructor Barry Wonenberg.

Wonenberg is nearing the completion of the sculptures that he has been commissioned to create as part of a Chinese urban improvement program, the Changchun China International Sculpture Symposium. When finally displayed at the Changchun Sculpture Park, Wonenberg's artwork—named "Totem-Standing Together"—will comprise twin pieces that stand approximately 10 feet tall. The first piece will be made from stainless steel, while the other will be made from bronze.

According to Wonenberg, the bronze piece will possess "some texture, some polished reflective surfaces, and the warm feel of the bronze," while the stainless steel piece will be "highly polished, reflective and cool."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC art instructor Barry Wonenberg poses beside his sculpture "Totem-Standing Together," which will be displayed in the Changchun WorldSculpture Park in Changchun, China.

The artwork, which caught the eye of university officials who eventually offered Wonenberg a visiting professorship position to teach at Changchun University, will first be unveiled to the Chinese public in two weeks at Changchun's Sculpture Park. There the stainless steel piece will be accompanied by a fiberglass piece that has been painted to emulate bronze. The artwork will be on display for the two-day Sculpture Conference where many other visiting artists will be in attendance. The sculptures will then be moved and displayed at the city's Victory Park in the heart of the city center for about three years, where the bronze sculpture will replace the fiberglass piece. At the end of three years, the sculptures will then be moved back to their permanent place in Changchun World Sculpture Park.

The Changchun China International Sculpture Symposium invites artists and sculptors from around the world to create sculptures that promote the theme of "Friendship, Peace, and Spring."

From the program's inception in 2000, more than 350 sculptors from 172 countries have created 391 sculptures for the city representing different artistic styles from around the world. Artists from Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Monaco, Nicaragua, Barbados, Haiti, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Vanuatu, and other countries have made the trek to China in previous years to sculpt their artwork.

The sculptures are all displayed in the 92-hectare Changchun World Sculpture Park. This year, the symposium, which will run until Sept. 7, invited artists from a list of select countries, including the CNMI, to submit sculpture proposals showing the national and local cultures of their respective countries. After an extensive review process and approval by distinguished Chinese artists, only 31 artists were invited to participate this year.

"I am extremely honored that my art has been recognized on an international scale," said Wonenberg.

In addition to the permanent display of his completed sculpture at the Changchun World Sculpture Park, Wonenberg also received an allowance of $2,000, roundtrip ticket to and accommodations in Changchun, and sightseeing activities. The organizing committee also provided him assistants to help build the sculptures.

Read more about Wonenberg's progress and experiences in China by visiting http://saipanartist.blogspot.com/. ***(PR)***

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New students MUST make an appointment at the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Office in Building "G" to take the free placement test

Starting August 21, 2008 1-5 pm in Room K-1 at NMC.

Ongoing/Returning Student Registration:
September 2-3, 2008 10 am to 6 pm in ABE Office.

New Student Registration:
September 4-5, 2008 10 am to 6 pm in ABE Office.

Late Registration:
September 8-9, 2008 8am to 5 pm in ABE Office.

Student Orientation:
September 16, 2008 5-6:30 pm in D-1

NOTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Adult Basic Education Program

Placement Test:	August 21-22, 2008	Th-F	01:00-05:00 PM	K-1
Late Placement Test:	August 25-29, 2008	M-Th	08:30-12:30 PM	K-1
Registration for Returning Students:	September 2-3, 2008	TW	10:00-06:00 PM	ABE
Registration for New Students:	September 4-5 , 2008	ThF	10:00-06:00 PM	ABE
Late Registration:	September 8-9, 2008	MT	08:00-05:00 PM	ABE
CASAS Appraisal Test	September 10-11, 2008	WTh	09:00-10:00 AM	K-1
			01:00-02:00 PM	K-1
			05:00-06:00 PM	K-1
CASAS Pre-Test	September 12 & 15, 2008	FM	09:00-10:30 AM	K-1
			01:00-02:30 PM	K-1
			05:00-06:30 PM	K-1
Student Orientation:	September 16, 2008	T	05:00-06:30 PM	D-1
CASAS Make-Up Tests	September 16, 2008	T	08:00-05:00 PM	K-1
Add/Drop for Students:	September 17-26, 2008		08:00-05:00 PM	ABE

First Day of Instruction:	MWF Classes	September 17, 2008 (Wednesday)
	TTh Classes	September 18, 2008 (Thursday)
	Saturday Classes	September 20, 2008
	Sunday Classes	September 21, 2008
Last Day of Instruction:	December 12, 2008	

This schedule is subject to change. For more information please contact the ABE Office at 234-5498 Ext. 1723 or 1724

This advertisement was paid for from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

Bill will require cops to notify parents, guardians before questioning juveniles

House Floor Leader Joseph James N. Camacho on Wednesday introduced a bill that would require the notification of parents or guardians before police can question juveniles.

Camacho's legislation also seeks to require the presence of parents and guardians during police's interrogation.

"Oftentimes, in juvenile cases, government resources are spent fighting in court whether a juvenile willingly and knowingly waived his or her constitutional rights," the Floor Leader told *Saipan Tribune.*

Having a parent or guardian present during questioning by the police, the lawmaker pointed out, will protect the juvenile's rights and minimize cost of delays, hearings, and appeals.

In the bill, Camacho said teenagers, particularly those who are younger than 15 years old, do not fully understand their constitutional rights when taken into police's custody.

"Yet under current Commonwealth law, there is no requirement that law enforcement officials notify a parent that they have a juvenile in custody for questioning or provide the juvenile with an opportunity to consult with a parent before waiving his or her constitutional rights," he said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Death & Funeral Announcement

In Loving Memory

Soledad Takai Tenorio
"Daidai"

Born on November 7, 1926 was called to her eternal rest on August 23, 2008 at the age of 81.

Predeceased by:

Parents:
Pablo Shigezo Takai
Ana Villagomez Duenas

Parents-In-Law:
Juan Pangelinan Tenorio
Francisca Taimanao Camacho

Spouse: **Jose Camacho Tenorio**
Grandsons: Ray Patrick T. Palacios, Jonathan Paul T. Sablan
Son-In-Law: Sidney G. Quan

Survived by:

Children:
Annie T./Jesus R. Sablan & Family
Clarence T. Tenorio & Family
Norman T./Keli A. Tenorio & Family
Patricia T./Roman S. Palacios & Family
Frances T./Miguel S. Demapan & Family
Priscilla T. Tenorio/Joseph Guzman & Family

Brothers, Sisters, and In-Laws:

Antonio & Tomoe Takai
+Jose & +Ana Takai
+Rufina & +Jose Palacios
+Dolores & +Vicente Guerrero
+Juana N. Takai
+Soledad G. Takai
+Luis & +Rita S. Tenorio
+Albert & +Rita C. Tenorio

Antonio C. Tenorio
+Maria & +Herman R. Guerrero
+Cecilia & +Manuel B. Sablan
+Santiago & +Maria S. Tenorio
+Janet S. Tenorio
+Antonia C. Tenorio
+Froilan C. Tenorio
+Ana C. Tenorio

Numerous relatives, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Daily mass is at 6:00 a.m. and nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Funeral services will be on Monday, September 1, 2008 at Mount Carmel Cathedral with responso at 8:30 a.m. followed by viewing. Mass of Christian burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Burial will follow at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers please send your donations to:
The Joeten Charitable Foundation
Joeten Center, Susupe
P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950

Progress seen in environment internship program

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The internship program that primarily deals with coral reef management and other environmental concerns in the CNMI has steadily gained progress through the years, according to the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management and Division of fish and Wildlife.

These three government agencies are directly involved with the hosting of students choosing coral reef protection and preservation as their short course during the summer internship.

"Our internship program is getting better each year," said program coordinator Reina Camacho of DEQ at the completion of the two-month training course Wednesday at the CRM Conference Room along Beach Road in San Jose.

Ten students—six from the Northern Marianas College and one from the University of California Santa Barbara—received their certificates after their final PowerPoint presentations of what they've accomplished during their internship.

This brought to 52 the total number of students who have completed the same course since the internship program started six years ago in 2002.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

The coral reef interns gather for a group photo at the Coastal Resources Management Office parking lot along Beach Road in San Jose, Saipan, after the final PowerPoint presentation of their work Wednesday. Joining them are their mentors and staff of Division of Environmental Quality, Division of Fish and Wildlife and CRM.

This year's batch included Georgia Cabrera, Jose Quan, Andrew "Kila" Moses, Leovita Cabrera, Philip Johnson, Teresa Miller, Solomon Castro, Daniel Villegas, Matthew Blanco and Francisco Palacios. The last three were not present during the final presentation of their works.

The interns presented samples of their projects and analyzed them as well as gave their outlook regarding the environment and what they would like to become in the future.

Although they have courses that are not somehow related to environmental issues, all of them wanted to dwell in conservation programs in the future.

Georgia Cabrera said she would like to go back to DEQ and be one of the staff after finishing her Liberal Art major at NMC. She said she wants to pursue a degree in natural resources management.

"I gained a lot of knowledge. I learned the basic principles of watershed management by analyzing watershed database," Georgia Cabrera told a thin but appreciative audience composed of DEQ, CRM and DFW staff and mentors.

One of her works was to develop an island stewardship booklet for Lau Lau Bay homeowners. She also joined the reef flat monitoring activities that all interns went through during the summer.

Jose Quan discussed the importance of water quality, the process of determining how much salt in present in the water as well as analyzed and compared each area to another.

Quan said there is not much diversity around Garapan compared to coastal areas in Marpi because of the level of pollution in both areas. He wants to pursue a marine biology course to learn more and help manage the environment.

Andrew Moses helped the CRM monitoring team improve its website. He said there is really a need to protect the precious environment using a long-term approach and that an inter-agency collaborative effort is critical to protect the oceans.

Moses, a liberal Arts student at NMC, had the chance to see the underwater world, which was an eye-opener for him as he wants to pursue a degree in marine biology.

Other works during the internship included sand sampling and clam measurement along the beaches, which he said gave an idea about the condition of their habitat.

Leovita Cabrera learned how to create thematic maps while training about the Geographic Information Systems.

Such maps, she said, would eventually help anyone in locating critical infrastructures, especially those related to environment like pump stations, dikes and as well as conservation and watershed areas.

One of the interns was a student of Environmental Science and management at the University of California Santa Barbara, Philip Johnson, who learned about native and invasive species on the island. He was also able to help design a website for the DFW where he completed his summer internship.

Also at the DFW was Teresa Miller, who made and distributed posters around town to make people aware about the endangered species in the CNMI as well as where people are not allowed to catch fish.

For Solomon Castro, he would like to pursue a course in GIS and become an environmentalist in the future.

Among his experiences during the internship were visiting water drainage systems, clogged canals and checking to see if companies in the CNMI are complying with DEQ regulations.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-GOV- 094

Program Management:
CNMI Water Task Force

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Request for Proposals for Program Management for the Water Task Force on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **August 22, 2008.**

Questions regarding this Request for Proposal must be submitted in writing to **CNMI Water Task Force**, by facsimile to **(670) 664-2279**, no later than **Friday, September 05, 2008.**

Four (4) copies plus one original of the sealed Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 p.m., (CNMI local time), on September 19, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Lieutenant Governor

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 08-033

The Public School System (PSS) and the State Board of Education are soliciting for competitive sealed biddings for a **One (1) Year Janitorial Services for the PSS Central Offices**. Interested firms are to provide labor, materials and supplies for janitorial services. Detailed information on the Scope of Work are available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All Bid Proposals must be in a sealed envelope face marked "**IFB # 08-033**" and submitted one (1) original with three (3) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 19, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsive and Responsible Determination documents must be put in a different envelope marked "**IFB# 08-033, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsive & Responsible Determination**" (I -original with three 3-copies). Any bids after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Any questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, PSS Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, at fax # (670). 664-3791 or email to *babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp*. Questions must be submitted no later than ten (10) working days prior to the deadline to submit the proposals.

The bidders are requested to submit with their proposal a copy of their valid CNMI Business License to conduct Janitorial Services (Labor, Supply, Maintenance & Services) in the CNMI.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

Inquiries to this proposal announcement may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone number 237-3062 or 3035 or faxed to 664-3791.

/S/ Ramon DLG. Diaz, Jr.
Acting, Commisioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
PSS Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Our Deepest and Profound Sympathies and Condolences to the Family of

Soledad Takai Tenorio
"DAIDAI"

From: Stockholders, Directors, Management, Staff & Employees

ISLA

Isla Financial Services, Inc.
Finance Factors Ltd.

Japanese students to promote Rota at JATA fair

Ten students from Waseda University in Japan recently toured the island of Rota as part of their upcoming presentation for the Japan Travel Association World Tourism Congress and Travel Fair.

The Fair will be held on Sept. 18-20 at the Tokyo Big Sight (International Center) where the Waseda students will present what they have gathered during their tour on Rota.

A Rota booth will be put up during the fair to promote the island as a tourist destination area.

While on Rota, the students visited several tourist spots, stayed at homes of local residents, and experienced snorkeling in the pristine waters of Rota and the local fiesta night with cultural dinner show.

The tour was the first activity of the Waseda University students. It was in line with the development of Rota charter flights.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 10 Japanese student interns pose with Edward Maratitia and Yoichi Matsumura at the Rota Mayor's Office.

Business

Durable goods post strong increases in June and July

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. factories saw a surprisingly hefty increase in their orders for big-ticket products in July, reflecting continued strength in export sales and a boost to business investment from the government's tax stimulus package.

Economists, however, remain worried that spreading economic weakness overseas and a rebound in the value of the dollar could spell an end to the export boom later this year.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that orders for durable goods rose 1.3 percent last month, far above the slight 0.1 percent increase Wall Street had been expecting.

The July increase matched a 1.3 percent rise in June, which was revised up from an earlier reading of 0.8 percent. The matching gains were the strongest since orders for durable goods, items expected to last at least three years, jumped by 4.1 percent in December.

Wall Street investors were encouraged by the better-than-expected gain in durable goods orders. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 89.64 points to close at 11,502.51.

SEC is proposing international accounting standards by 2014

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators on Wednesday proposed a plan to allow public companies to begin using international accounting standards for reporting financial results in two years, and may require them to do so starting in 2014.

The push by the Securities and Exchange Commission toward acceptance of a single, global accounting standard has raised objections from some investor advocates and key lawmakers. Supporters of the change say it makes sense in an era of increasingly globalized financial markets and would help lure foreign companies to U.S. markets.

The five SEC commissioners voted unanimously at a public meeting to propose a timetable for the switch to international financial reporting standards, or IFRS, to replace the U.S. standards known as generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks rise following gain in durable goods orders

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street posted a sizable advance Wednesday after the government reported a larger-than-expected increase in orders for big-ticket manufactured goods that indicated the economy could be stronger than some investors thought. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 89.64, or 0.79 percent, to 11,502.51 after rising more than 140 points. Broader stock indicators also rose. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 10.15, or 0.80 percent, to 1,281.66, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 20.49, or 0.87 percent, to 2,382.46. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 9.44, or 1.30 percent, to 732.95.

Questions follow Mattel's $100M Bratz verdict

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—The $100 million jury award in the three-month legal battle between Mattel Inc. and Bratz-maker MGA Entertainment Inc. left one key issue unresolved. A judge must now decide whether MGA can continue to market the popular Bratz doll line and if it can, if it will have to pay Mattel royalties for some of those dolls. Mattel attorneys said after Tuesday's verdict that they intend to file an injunction to stop MGA from making more Bratz dolls. The federal panel found MGA, Chief Executive Isaac Larian and subsidiary MGA Hong Kong liable for copyright infringement and awarded a total of $10 million in damages in that category. They also awarded about $90 million for three causes of action related to breach of contract. However, the panel was not asked to specify which Bratz dolls they found were in violation of Mattel's copyright. U.S. District Court Judge Stephen Larson must now try to discern the jury's intent on that question.

Fannie Mae shakes up management team

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mortgage finance giant Fannie Mae shook up its executive ranks Wednesday, after shares in it and sibling company Freddie Mac rose for a third straight day as investors appeared less certain a government bailout of the two troubled companies is imminent Fannie Mae, the largest buyer and backer of U.S. home mortgages, said its chief financial officer and two other top executives are leaving the company. Three current executives were promoted to replace them. Fannie Chairman Stephen B. Ashley said in a statement that board members remain "firmly committed" to Chief Executive Daniel Mudd Mudd was elevated to the top post in December 2004 when former CEO Franklin Raines and chief financial officer Timothy Howard were swept out of office in an accounting scandal.

Oil rises in Asia on worries Gustav may strengthen

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose to near $119 a barrel Thursday in Asia on fears that Tropical Storm Gustav could strengthen on its way toward crude and natural gas rigs and refineries in the Gulf of Mexico.

Royal Dutch Shell PLC said it's evacuating some 300 workers from offshore Gulf rigs, while BP PLC was also removing personnel from the region that's home to about a quarter of U.S. crude production and much of its natural gas.

Though it was too soon to know where the storm would hit, some models showed Gustav taking a path toward Louisiana and other Gulf states devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita three years ago.

One weather research firm predicted as much as 80 percent of the Gulf's oil and gas production could be shut down as a precaution if Gustav enters the region as a major storm.

Light, sweet crude for October delivery was up 80 cents at $118.95 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract rose $1.88 overnight to settle at $118.15 a barrel.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal declared a state of emergency and activated the National Guard in advance of storm Gustav. Jindal said Wednesday 3,000 National Guard troops will be activated and deployed a day in advance of the storm's expected landfall. An additional 2,000 troops could be called up to duty.

Gustav formed Monday and roared ashore Haiti Tuesday as a Category 1 hurricane. The storm triggered flooding and landslides that killed 23 people in the Caribbean. It weakened into a tropical storm and appeared headed for Cuba, though it is likely to grow stronger in the coming days by drawing energy from warm open water.

In 2005, Katrina and Rita destroyed 109 oil platforms and five drilling rigs. Gustav is the first storm of the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season to pose a serious threat to the more than 4,000 oil and gas installations in the Gulf.

Oil prices were also supported by a weaker dollar, which boosted the demand for oil among investors who buy commodities as a hedge against inflation. The euro gained to $1.4776 while the dollar was steady against the yen.

In other Nymex trading, heating oil futures rose 0.53 cent to $3.267 a gallon, while gasoline prices gained 0.88 cent to $3.076 a gallon.

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Yatsuya Tawashi Palm $1.35 /ea.
Joy Liquid Detergent Lemon Scent 16 oz. $1.44 /ea.
Niagara Spray Original 15 oz. $1.43 /ea.
Smoca Toothpaste Powder Red 155 g. $2.54 /ea.
Smoca Toothpaste Powder Green 155 g. $2.54 /ea.
Sentinel Cosmetic Pads 80 ct. $1.70 /ea.
Sentinel Cotton Ball 200 ct. $2.34 /ea.

GROCERIES

Sun Flower Mackerel 15 oz. Japan $1.61 /ea.
S & W Asparagus 15 oz. $3.02 /ea.
Lamthong Nata De Coco 20 oz. 99¢ /ea.
Seneca Mixed Vebetables 15 oz. 77¢ /ea.
Western Family Whole Tomato 14.5 oz. 85¢ /ea.
Campbell's Cream of Mushroom 26 oz. $2.25 /ea.
Campbell's Chicken Noodles 26 oz. $2.39 /ea.
Black Label Luncheon Loaf 12 oz. $1.62 /ea.
Spam Regular 7 oz. $1.70 /ea.
Campbell's Spaghetti with Cheese 14.75 oz. $1.49 /ea.
Hormel Pigs Feet 14 oz. $2.95 /ea.
Armour Dried Beef 4.5 oz. $2.97 /ea.
Kitagawa Pepper Fine 250 g. $3.59 /ea.
Kitagawa Pepper Rough 250 g. $3.59 /ea.
House Java Curry 220 g. Japan $2.71 /ea.

GROCERIES

House Vermont Mild 250 g. Japan $2.71 /ea.
House Vermont Medium 250 g. Japan $2.71 /ea.
Takeya Miso Tokujyo 500 g. Japan $2.88 /ea.
Takeya Tokujyo Miso 1 kg. Japan $5.59 /ea.
Lindsay Olives Slices 3.8 oz. $1.53 /ea.
Western Family Vinegar 16 oz. $1.26 /ea.
B.C. Hamburger Helper Beef Pasta 5.6 oz. $1.87 /ea.
Karo Corn Syrup with Brown Sugar 16 oz. $2.54 /ea.
Karo Corn Syrup Dark 16 oz. $2.54 /ea.

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Beef Hearts $1.49 /lb.
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Pork Feet Sliced $1.29 /lb.
Pork Shoulder Picnic Ham 5-9# $1.89 /lb.
Pork Whole Leg Bone-in 17-20# $1.89 /lb.
Quail Family Pack 30 oz. $9.50 /lb.
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Dekuyper Triple Sec 1 Liter $15.30 /ea.
Port O Call Bloody Mary 32 ml. $3.47 /ea.
Ballentines 12 Years Old 750 ml. $24.61 /ea.
Grand Manier 700 ml. $29.58 /ea.

Dewar's White Label 700 ml. $15.97 /ea.
Nikka Whisky Taketsuru 660 ml. $22.50 /ea.
Nikka Whisky All Malt 700 ml. $17.96 /ea.
Pinot Noir Wyndham 750 ml. $11.33 /ea.
Reserve Shiraz J Creek 750 ml. $16.52 /ea.
Torres Atrium Merlot 750 ml. $13.95 /ea.
Mt. Santa Digma Cab Sauv 750 ml. $10.16 /ea.

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Curb your political enthusiasm

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

It's Democratic and Republican convention season, and with that, a growing interest in this fall's presidential election. That means it's a good time to review your employer's policies about political activities at work. Most people should avoid sending politically charged e-mails (including links to partisan stories) using their work e-mail accounts. Also, it's rarely a good idea to display political ads, including buttons and signs, in the office. Depending on the culture of your workplace, you may even want to rethink slapping bumper stickers backing candidates on your car.

Use caution when discussing political issues with colleagues that you don't know well, particularly people you supervise. You may think you're just making conversation, but if you have a position of authority over someone, he or she may feel pressured to pretend to share your views.

And if you find you can't contain your enthusiasm for your favorite candidate to your off-hours, maybe it's time to look for another job—in politics.

■■■

Surfing the Web on the job? It turns out you might not need to minimize those windows every time the boss walks by, after all. More than half of advertising and marketing executives polled by the Creative Group, a specialized staffing service for creative, advertising, marketing and Web professionals, said it's acceptable for employees to visit non-work-related Web sites during business hours.

But, don't waste too much time shopping or reading the news: When asked the maximum amount of time that should be permissible each day, the executives' mean response was just 32 minutes. If you find yourself wasting too much time shopping for shoes, consider setting a timer. Two guilt-free breaks of 15 minutes each will give you plenty of time to keep up with the news and your online acquaintances.

■■■

Video resumes are being touted more often lately as a way to stand out in a job search, but that might not be a good thing. Just one in four senior executives interviewed in a survey for Robert Half International, a staffing services firm specializing in accounting and finance, said their companies accept video resumes from candidates. Many employers are reluctant to accept video resumes for fear of bias claims from applicants, and some may even have a policy banning their use. Others simply ignore them, dismissing them as too cumbersome or time-consuming. Besides, few of us really shine on video.

Instead, take the money you would have spent creating a video resume and sign up for a professional conference. Video will never substitute for a handshake.

AP

Flip-flop footwear bearing the image of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama are shown Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008, in downtown Denver.

Tips for using professional networking sites

By LILY GARCIA
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

A reader writes:

"How much professional information should you share on a site like LinkedIn? The issue I'm having is that I have done some political work, but I am also interested in working in non-political areas where it may not be good to be associated with a lot of political activism and partisanship. But, I just joined the board of a nonprofit (nonpartisan, but political) group and they want a bio, which would be a good time to cite my political activities.

I don't know how to both highlight and hide my disparate experiences when someone could Google me and see everything. I'm still at the beginning of my career, and it's hard to figure out a path without trying different things, but I also don't want the visibility of that trial-and-error to hurt me. Do you have any tips? Thanks so much."

The response:

If you choose to participate in an online business network, you should play by certain rules. The reasonable expectation of those participating in the network is that other members will provide accurate information about their job history. At the very least, therefore, you should list your recent past employers. When it comes to volunteer and community service work, clubs, consulting and other affiliations, you should feel free to list those things that will enhance the career profile you are creating.

This is very much like deciding what to include on your professional resume. You must be honest. But you also need to be concise and keep the information current and relevant. So, at some point in your career, you delete the line about your part-time job at Orange Julius. Later you might decide that your tenure as president of the ecological society in college is no longer impressive.

Eventually, you have accumulated enough diverse experience that you can afford to skillfully chip away at the marble here and there to refine the persona you present. You write job descriptions that tend to highlight the skills and experience that you would like to further develop in your professional life. You find yourself deciding whether it is wise to reveal your political roots as a volunteer for Al Franken's presidential campaign. There is nothing disingenuous or dishonest about polishing your image in this manner. This is part of the tacit language of professional networking. Everyone understands that we are all trying to put our best foot forward.

Personally, I think that involvement in political activities, especially as a leader and organizer, displays a level of initiative and engagement that could make you a valuable asset to many organizations. Many people are comfortable expressing political leanings and are tolerant of political activities. As a general rule, however, I recommend steering clear of listing controversial political activities on your LinkedIn page or elsewhere online. A mainstream employer might be not be able to see beyond the controversy to appreciate the experiential value, for example, of your lobbying work for NORML.

When you write your professional biography for that nonprofit board, do include political activities that you think might help to explain to other board members and stakeholders why you are a good leadership choice. If someone Googles your name and discovers the biography or otherwise learns of an activity you did not list on LinkedIn, that's OK. Nobody expects your LinkedIn page to be a detailed history of your life, just a helpful synopsis of your professional experience.

Garcia, whose column regularly appears on WashingtonPost.com, has offered employment law and human resources advice to companies of all sizes for 10 years.

Borrowing from online dating sites to match job seekers, employers

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Whether you're working your network via e-mail or scanning online classifieds every morning over coffee, chances are the Internet plays some role in your job search these days.

But most Web sites, including Monster, Craigslist and members-only postings for trade associations, are still based on the classic bulletin-board model. "Looking for a job" on these sites consists primarily of tapping in keywords and weeding through whatever listings pop up.

One upstart, RealMatch, takes a different tack. Billing itself as the "eHarmony of the employment industry," RealMatch borrows techniques from dating sites to more efficiently match employers and workers using standard descriptions of skills, employment history and job preferences.

The service is free for job seekers. Assuming you already have the basic information about your job and education history handy, building a profile takes just a few minutes. RealMatch's system is a great deal less cumbersome than many competing sites'.

(Note to job-board software writers: The biggest time-wasters are the sites that attempt to swallow a resume whole and automatically drop it under the appropriate headers. Save my time and yours by letting me copy and paste text directly into each field. It can take *hours* to undo a poorly designed program's mistakes.)

Choosing a particular job title pulls up an associated group of skills common in that field, and you specify your level of talent in each. Further prompts ask you for details about your job history, education, relevant hobbies and so forth.

Meanwhile, employers create profiles for the jobs they want to fill, using the same menus for associated skills and experience levels.

That common language of titles and skills eliminates the guesswork inherent in keyword searches. You won't miss out on great jobs because you (or the hiring manager writing the ad) made a typo, and civil engineers won't waste time reading ads for "maintenance engineers."

Once your profile is saved, RealMatch's software looks for overlap with current ads and presents the results to both the job seeker and the employer ranked by the quality of the match: "great," "good" or "basic." The more information you add about yourself, the more likely you are to get an appropriate match, the company promises.

Job seekers can then either initiate a conversation with matching employers or wait to hear from them. I suggest the more active approach. Here, as on other job sites, the odds still favor the employers.

The site does have a few drawbacks, namely in the number and variety of jobs available. RealMatch launched as a standalone online job-search site in May, but a sister program already runs more than 1,000 newspapers' job market sites, giving RealMatch a jump-start on attracting listings.

I expect the number of jobs to grow on this site, as well as on other free sites — and I mean free to the employer, not the job hunter — given the minimal upfront investment needed. With RealMatch, employers pay only when they find a specific candidate in whom they are interested, a strong enticement to post their jobs there instead of relying only on what company execs dub the "pay, post and pray" approach of most job sites.

And that's a sentiment that should appeal to job seekers as well.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

That gas guzzler might be a keeper

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Because of the rising cost of fuel, many people are considering trading in their SUVs and other vehicles that get poor gas mileage. Before you do, here are some things to consider:

■ If your vehicle is already paid for, does it make sense to add a monthly payment to your budget? You'll still have to buy gas for the new vehicle.

■ If you still owe on your vehicle, will the monthly payment on another vehicle be more or less than you currently pay? Will the savings in fuel costs make it worthwhile?

■ Call your insurance agent about other vehicles you're considering. Does your insurance cost go up or down?

■ If you buy another vehicle, what kind of interest will you get on the loan?

■ What will the car's value be in five years if you want to trade it in?

■ What's the maintenance schedule like on the newer vehicle, and what are the costs?

To determine the mileage your vehicle is actually getting, fill up the tank and note your mileage. After you've driven for more than a quarter tank, fill it again and note the mileage. The mileage divided by the number of gallons used is your miles per gallon rate.

Based on your annual driving, do the math on another vehicle and compare it with yours for cost of fuel, insurance, maintenance, license tag and other fees, and cost of a loan.

If you decide to keep your vehicle and ride out the high costs of gas, keep it in top condition. Don't skimp on oil changes and tune-ups. If it's still under warranty, keep up with all the recommended maintenance, such as filter changes. Drive the speed limit and turn off the engine when you're going to be sitting for more than one minute.

For a list of the operating costs of 300 vehicles, see the April 2008 issue of Consumer Reports.

Good Value: If you subscribe to Consumer Reports magazine, you can access its complete Web site after paying an additional $19 subscription fee. Some subscribers are getting offers in the mail for a special $12 fee. You'll get access to all the behind-the-scenes information in a searchable database, as well as access to the Experts Forums.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

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Nestea Iced Tea 36 qts. $7.99

Country Time 5lbs. 2.5 oz.(2.33kg) $7.99

Spam All Kinds 12 oz. LIMIT 12 $1.89

Sun Flower Mackarel 15 oz. $1.59

Beach Cliff Sardines 3.75 oz. 79¢

Coffee-Mate Creamer 50 oz. $7.99

Folgers Classic Roast 39 oz. $7.99

Ocean Best Crabmeat Imitation 1 lb. $2.29

Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5 oz. $1.99

Golden State Vinegar 1 Gal. $2.79

Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup 10.7 oz. 89¢

Carnation Evaporated Milk 12 oz. 99¢

Ground Beef 5 LBS. $8.99 10 LBS. $16.95

Pike Mackarel Family Bag $5.95

Mackarel Family Bag $5.95

Cream of Mushroom 10 3/4 oz. 99¢

DM Beef Stew 15 oz. 2 FOR $3.00

One Whole Chicken 50 oz. $4.99

Ace of Diamonds Tuna LIMIT 12 Cans 99¢

Gusto Ham 10 lbs. $16.99

Miller Sausage 5 lbs. $14.95

Chamorro Sausage Reg/Hot 1 lb. $3.99

Black Label Luncheon Meat 12 oz. $1.39

Hormel Vienna Sausage 5 oz. 59¢

Hormel Chili No Beans 15 oz. 2 FOR $3.00

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Pickles Vlasic Whole Dill 1 Gal. $5.99

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Vega Shrimp 1 lb. $5.50

Green Mussels 2 lbs. $4.99

Milk Fish $1.59

Gold Medal Flour 5 lbs. $2.59

Sugar 2 kg. $1.69

Maseca Corn Flour 4.4 lbs. $3.59

Platinum Napkin 360 cnts. $3.99

Tilapia $1.19

U.S. Extra Large Eggs Dozen $1.99

Chicken Wings 5.5 lbs. $10.99

Ichiban Limit 2 CASES $7.99/CASE

Morton Iodized Salt 26 oz. 59¢

Foam Plates 125 ct. $5.99

Bounty Basic 8 Roll $8.99

Kraft Cool Whip 8 OZ. $1.99 16 OZ. $3.50

Candle Plain White Only $12.95/CASE

Horse Shampoo 1 qrt. 2 FOR $3.00

Korean Butane Gas LIMIT 1 Case $20.99/CASE

Diamond Foil 200 Sq. Ft. $5.99

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SpringField Vegetable Oil 128 fl.oz. (1Gal) $7.99

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Philadelphia Cream Cheese $2.39

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Enfamil with Iron 8 oz./Case $36.99

Bounty 15 Rolls $19.99

Coke Regular 24/Case Warm Only $12.99

Pepsi Regular Warm Only $13.99/CASE

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SOFT 'N GENTLE (12 ROLLS)	$4.50
CHARMIN (24 ROLLS)	$8.99
GAIN POWDER (120 LOADS)	$16.95
GAIN LIQUID (300 OZ.)	$16.95
GAIN LIQUID (200 OZ.) ORIGINAL ONLY	$11.95
JOY ULTRA LEMON DISHWASHING LIQUID (90 OZ.)	$6.99
SUAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 OZ.)	2 FOR $3.00

FAMILY BAG SPECIAL

BEEF SHANK	$10.95
FLANK STEAK	$16.95
PORK ADOBO	$10.95
PORK CHOP	$11.95
PORK BELLY	$11.95
STEWING CHICKEN	$6.95
TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG)	$4.99
U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS	$13.99
BEEF BACK RIBS	$7.95
BEEF OXTAIL	$16.95
BEEF STEW	$12.95
RIBEYE STEAK	$17.95
BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK	$14.95
SMOKED HAM STEAK	$12.95
PORK BUTT	$10.95

Budweiser / Budlight 24/Case Warm Only $24.99

Chamorro Punch 1 Gal. $8.99

Nation

Dems choose Obama in historic acclamation

DENVER (AP)—Barack Obama stepped triumphantly into history Wednesday night, the first black American to win a major party presidential nomination, as thousands of Democrats transformed their convention hall into a joyful, shouting Former rival Hillary Rodham Clinton asked delegates to the party convention to make their verdict unanimous "in the spirit of unity, with the goal of victory." And they did, with a roar.

Competing chants of "Obama" and "Yes we can" surged up from the convention floor as the outcome of a carefully scripted roll call of the states was announced.

Obama, the son of a black Kenyan father and a white American mother, is now one victory from becoming president of a nation where, just decades ago, many blacks were denied the vote.

But even as he won the nomination, there was open talk in the convention city that Obama's race remained a stumbling block to winning the White House

"A lot of white workers ... and quite frankly a lot of union members believe he's the wrong race," AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka told a breakfast meeting of Michigan delegates

In the general election, Obama will face Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who will accept his party's nomination next week in St. Paul, Minn.

The polls showed a close race ahead with McCain, a former Vietnam prisoner of war a few days shy of his 72nd birthday, and Obama was hoping Democrats would leave their convention united despite the hard feelings remaining from a bruising primary campaign that stretched over 18 months.

Former President Bill Clinton did his part, delivering a strong pitch for the man who outmaneuvered his wife for the nomination. "Everything I've learned in eight years as president and the work I've done since, in America and across the globe, has convinced me that Barack Obama is the man for this job," he said, to loud cheers.

Michelle Obama, watching from her seat in the balcony, stood and applauded as the former president praised her man.

The convention ends Thursday with Obama's acceptance speech, an event expected to draw a crowd of 75,000 at a nearby football stadium where an elaborate backdrop was under construction. After Obama's nomination, delegates filled out his ticket a few hours later, naming Delaware Sen. Joseph Biden vice presidential running mate, also by acclamation.

Addressing the convention, Biden said Obama was right about Iraq, a war he opposed from the start, and McCain was wrong.

"These times require more than a good soldier. They require a wise leader," Biden said. "A leader who can deliver change. The change that everybody knows we need."

Obama isn't the first black man to seek the White House, but is the first with a chance to win it. Others, including Jesse Jackson in 1984 and 1988, tailored their appeals largely to blacks or lower-income voters of all races. Obama's reach for political power and history was different, aimed at the broad American political middle. And his nomination, delivered so jubilantly, represents a gamble of sorts by the Democratic Party that a country founded by slave-owners and desegregated only in recent decades—and even then sometimes violently—is ready to place a black man in the Oval Office.

AP

Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., left, and Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., embrace following Biden's vice-presidential nomination acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008.

Biden says nation needs more than a good soldier

DENVER (AP)—Joe Biden declared Wednesday that America doesn't need a good soldier in the White House, it needs the wise leadership of Barack Obama. As Biden concluded his speech accepting the Democratic vice presidential nomination, Obama stepped on stage and embraced his man to a convention "I want everybody to now understand why I am so proud to have Joe Biden ... and the whole Biden family," Obama told the boisterous crowd. "I think he's presented himself pretty well so far, what do you think?"

The crowd cheered again.

Obama will accept the party's nomination for president in a nearby football stadium Thursday. "We want to make sure that everybody who wants to come and join in the party and join in the effort to take this country back," Obama said.

Before he was upstaged by the boss, Biden used a single sentence to slap McCain and salute his military service.

"These times require more than a good soldier, they require a wise leader," said the Delaware senator

Biden also sniped at Vice President Dick Cheney, saying that after he takes the job, Americans trying to do the right thing and honor the Constitution "no longer will the eight most dreaded words in the English language be 'The vice president's office is on the phone.'"

Biden said the bedrock American promise of a better tomorrow is in jeopardy "but John McCain doesn't get it."

"I know it, you know it ... Barack Obama gets it," he said. "... This is the time as Americans, together, we get back up," he said. " ... These are extraordinary times. This is an extraordinary election. The American people are ready. Barack Obama is ready. This is his time. This is our time. This is America's time."

Hours after the Democratic National Convention nominated Obama by acclamation, Biden was unanimously chosen to be his running mate.

He called Republican McCain a Senate friend of three decades, but the wrong man for the White House. "I profoundly disagree with the direction that John wants to take the country," he said.

At one point, misspeaking, he started a sentence by referring to George—as in President Bush—and then corrected himself to say John. A Freudian slip, he quipped. It is a connection Democrats are bent on making at every opportunity.

Biden went hard against McCain and the Republicans on foreign policy. "I've been on the ground in Georgia, Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan, and I can tell you in no uncertain terms: This administration's policy has been an abject failure."

Biden said McCain wants to keep it going on the same course.

"America cannot afford four more years of this," Biden said. "... Again and again, on the most important national security issues of our time, John McCain was wrong and Barack Obama was proven right."

AP

Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., stands with his grandchildren after his speech during the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008.

Bill Clinton forcefully endorses Obama at DNC

AP

Former President Bill Clinton gestures to the audience as he addresses the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008.

DENVER (AP)—Former President Clinton gave his full-throated endorsement to Barack Obama's bid for the White House on Wednesday, telling delegates to the Democratic convention that Obama is "ready to lead America and restore American leadership in the world."

Clinton pushed back against attacks—initiated by himself and his wife during the bitter primary campaign, and later taken up by Republican John McCain—that Obama is ill-prepared for the White House, especially on matters of national defense.

He also suggested that on such weighty issues, Obama would be leaning on his seasoned vice president, six-term Sen. Joe Biden.

"With Joe Biden's experience and wisdom, supporting Barack Obama's proven understanding, insight and good instincts, America will have the national security leadership we need," Clinton said.

Clinton campaigned feverishly for his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, in her long-fought primary battle against Obama, and took her loss hard. He had not spoken out strongly in support of Obama since he clinched the nomination in June.

But Wednesday, he was unambiguous in passing the torch of Democratic leadership to Obama.

Jabbing a finger at thousands of cheering delegates, he declared: "I want all of you who supported her to vote for Barack Obama in November."

Running just over 20 minutes, Clinton's speech whipped thousands of delegates into a frenzy. Where a night before they had hoisted "Hillary" banners, on this night they waved American flags, symbols of the unity the fractious party seeks.

The delegates stood on their feet and roared for nearly 3 1/2 minutes when Clinton walked on stage. The former president basked in their affection, but after several false starts at his speech, commanded: "Sit down!"

Officials may evacuate New Orleans as storm nears

Reginald Lee cuts grass around white flags that represent people who died during Hurricane Katrina at Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans, Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008.
AP

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—On the eve of Hurricane Katrina's third anniversary, a nervous New Orleans watched Wednesday as another storm threatened to test everything the city has rebuilt, and officials made plans to evacuate people, pets and hospitals in an attempt to avoid a Katrina-style chaos. Forecasters warned that Gustav could grow into a dangerous Category 3 hurricane in the next several days and hit somewhere along a swath of the Gulf Coast from the Florida Panhandle to Texas—with New Orleans smack in the middle.

Taking no chances, city officials began preliminary planning to evacuate and lock down the city in hopes of avoiding the catastrophe that followed the 2005 storm. Mayor Ray Nagin left the Democratic National Convention in Denver to return home for the preparations.

If a Category 3 or stronger hurricane comes within 72 hours of the city, New Orleans plans to institute a mandatory evacuation order. Unlike Katrina, there will be no massive shelter at the Superdome, a plan designed to encourage residents to leave. Instead, the state has arranged for 700 buses to take people to safety.

At a suburban Lowe's store, employees said portable generators, gasoline cans, bottled water and batteries were selling briskly. Hotels across south Louisiana reported taking many reservations as coastal residents looked inland for possible refuge. Steve Weaver, 82, and his wife stayed for Katrina—and were plucked off the roof of their house by a Coast Guard helicopter. This time, Weaver has no inclination to ride out the storm.

"Everybody learned a lesson about staying, so the highways will be twice as packed this time," Weaver said.

Arrest reopens mystery of missing couple

AP
In this undated image provided by Lydia Marano is shown Jonathan and Linda Sohus sometime prior to their 1985 disappearance.

SAN MARINO, Calif. (AP)—Linda Sohus was a towering blonde fantasy buff who liked to paint unicorns. Her husband, Jonathan, was a diminutive computer programmer working at a NASA lab who shared his wife's passion for science fiction.

The young newlyweds disappeared from this upscale Los Angeles suburb in February 1985, leaving behind their home, their cat and their perplexed families. There was talk that Jonathan had taken a secret government job and postcards suggesting that Linda was in Europe, but a darker possibility emerged nine years later when work on a swimming pool at the home uncovered a skeleton.

The still-unsolved mystery of the couple's disappearance, dormant for years, was reignited this month with the arrest of a German man who had lived in a guest house on the Sohuses' property.

Christian Gerhartsreiter, who was known as Christopher Chichester to the Sohuses and in recent years called himself Clark Rockefeller, is accused of kidnapping his daughter on a Boston street last month after losing custody of her in his divorce. He had been living a lavish lifestyle and authorities had feared he had fled the country by yacht, but he was captured in Baltimore living under an alias after about a week.

His arrest has investigators re-examining the Sohuses' property and friends of the couple and Gerhartsreiter unearthing old memories.

The mystery has haunted Lydia Marano since the day Linda Sohus, her trusty employee, failed to open up her sci-fi and fantasy bookstore, Dangerous Visions.

"I thought they were very much in love," Marano said of the couple. "I feel sad that I don't know what happened to her. I am sure her family would love to have some closure. So would I."

Arctic sea ice drops to 2nd lowest level on record

WASHINGTON (AP)—More ominous signs Wednesday have scientists saying that a global warming "tipping point" in the Arctic seems to be happening before their eyes: Sea ice in the Arctic Ocean is at its second lowest level in about 30 years.

The National Snow and Ice Data Center reported that sea ice in the Arctic now covers about 2.03 million square miles. The lowest point since satellite measurements began in 1979 was 1.65 million square miles set last September.

With about three weeks left in the Arctic summer, this year could wind up breaking that previous record, scientists said

Arctic ice always melts in summer and refreezes in winter. But over the years, more of the ice is lost to the sea with less of it recovered in winter. While ice reflects the sun's heat, the open ocean absorbs more heat and the melting accelerates warming in other parts of the world. Sea ice also serves as primary habitat for threatened polar bears.

"We could very well be in that quick slide downward in terms of passing a tipping point," said senior scientist Mark Serreze at the data center in Boulder, Colo. "It's tipping now. We're seeing it happen now."

Within "five to less than 10 years," the Arctic could be free of sea ice in the summer, said NASA ice scientist Jay Zwally.

"It also means that climate warming is also coming larger and faster than the models are predicting and nobody's really taken into account that change yet," he said.

Poll: California voters oppose ban on gay marriage

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A majority of California voters oppose a ballot initiative to ban gay marriage, though they are evenly split on the practice itself, according to a poll released Wednesday.

The ballot question essentially will ask voters to prohibit the practice of same-sex marriage, which was approved this year by the California Supreme Court.

The discrepancy between voters' general attitudes against gay marriage and their position on banning it could be explained by a hesitancy to remove a constitutional right, said Mark Baldassare, president and chief executive of the Public Policy Institute of California, which conducted the poll.

A majority of likely voters, 54 percent, oppose ending gay marriage, compared with 40 percent who support it, the poll said. The result is similar to the findings of a Field Poll in July, which found that 51 percent of likely California voters opposed ending gay marriage, while 42 percent said they supported it.

But when it comes to general attitudes about gay marriage, voters in the Public Policy Institute poll are evenly split, at 47 percent for and against—as they have been for the past three years.

ACROSS THE NATION

SoCal jury gets case of ex-Marine in Iraq deaths

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—A federal jury on Wednesday began deliberating whether a former Marine squad leader committed manslaughter in Iraq, marking the first time in which civilians will decide whether the actions of a military service member during combat were criminal. A prosecutor urged the jury to convict Jose Luis Nazario Jr., saying he killed unarmed detainees on Nov. 9, 2004, in Fallujah, and must be held accountable for violating his duty as a Marine. Nazario, 28, is the first former military service member brought to trial under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act, which was written in 2000 and amended in 2004 primarily to allow prosecution of civilian contractors who commit crimes while working for the U.S. overseas.

Death for man who kidnapped, murdered Idaho boy

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—A longtime sex offender was sentenced to death Wednesday for the 2005 kidnapping, torture and murder of a 9-year-old northern Idaho boy after federal jurors who watched video of some of the brutality deliberated just three hours. The jurors' recommendation was binding on U.S. District Judge Edward Lodge, who thanked them, dismissed them and then sentenced Joseph Edward Duncan III. Relatives of the victim, Dylan Groene, remained somber as the jury's decision was announced. Duncan murdered Dylan's mother, older brother and his mother's fiance to kidnap him and his younger sister, who was sexually abused along with her brother but survived.

Husband gets guardianship in Schiavo-like case

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A judge on Wednesday granted temporary guardianship to the husband of a woman on a feeding tube in a case similar to the lengthy legal dispute over whether Terri Schiavo should be kept alive. Karen Weber, 57, has been in and out of a nursing home and hospital since having a stroke in December. She is now hospitalized on a feeding tube in Okeechobee and suffering from meningitis, her mother, Martha Tatro, said Wednesday. Weber's husband, Raymond, sought earlier this year to have the feeding tube removed and his wife transferred to a hospice ward, where she would likely die. He says she is in a vegetative state and would not want to live this way. But Weber's mother is fighting to keep her alive, arguing she has been alert and responsive at times and doesn't want to die.

Asia

30 suspected Taliban killed in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—More than 30 suspected Taliban fighters died in clashes and airstrikes, while a Japanese aid worker kidnapped in eastern Afghanistan has been found dead, officials said Wednesday.

Kazuya Ito, 31, was abducted near the city of Jalalabad early Tuesday and the Japanese government said no ransom demands were made. A Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility for the kidnapping.

Ghafor Khan, spokesman for the Nangarhar province police chief, said Ito was killed by blows to the head, likely caused by an attack with a rock. He also had a gunshot wound to the leg, Khan said.

Ito, an agriculture specialist who worked for a group called Peshawar-kai, was the first Japanese citizen to be kidnapped in Afghanistan, which has been rocked by increasing violence in recent months.

Foreign aid workers have been kidnapped by militants who try to trade them for their arrested members. However, the practice of kidnapping of Afghan civilians by criminal gangs for ransom is widespread throughout the country.

20 killed in chemical plant blasts in China

BEIJING (AP)—The death toll from explosions that ripped through a chemical plant in southwest China rose to 20 on Wednesday, state media said.

The victims were employees of the plant in Yizhou city in Guangxi province, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Another 60 people were injured in the blasts that started at about 6 a.m. Tuesday and continued until 1 p.m., the report said.

The blaze started in a workshop and spread through the plant as containers with flammable chemicals including formaldehyde and acetylene caught fire, Xinhua said.

Fire spread over a nearly 108,000-square-foot (10,000-square-meter) area, Xinhua said, citing an unidentified firefighter in the rescue operation.

The government evacuated 11,500 residents in case of further blasts and chemical leaks.

Poisonous gases, mainly sulfurated hydrogen and carbon monoxide, were still coming from the site, Xinhua quoted Ge Xianmin, Guangxi's toxic substances emergency center director, as saying.

The blast did not seriously pollute air or water in the area, Xinhua said. Rescuers set up four dams at the point where pollutants are discharged from the factory to prevent any from flowing into the nearby Longjiang River, Xinhua said.

RP relief agencies step up help to civilians as clashes ease in south

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Aid workers stepped up food assistance Thursday to hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians in the southern Philippines, as fighting eased after government troops overran 18 Muslim rebel camps in a 10-day offensive.

■ ■ ■

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The world Islamic bloc on Wednesday condemned violent attacks on civilians by Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines that prompted the government to launch an offensive and scrap a preliminary peace deal.

The secretary-general of the 57-member Organization of the Islamic Conference, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, said "wayward elements" affiliated with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front committed "illegitimate acts" by causing a confrontation with the Philippine military.

■ ■ ■

Troops launched air and ground assaults targeting three Moro Islamic Liberation Front commanders and their units after the guerrillas raided predominantly Christian towns Aug. 18, shooting and hacking to deaths dozens of civilians.

The government said at least 47 civilians were killed in the fighting and more than 360,000 have been displaced. At least 17 soldiers and pro-government militiamen and up to 100 guerrillas also were killed, according to the military. The rebels say they lost only 10 fighters.

The U.N. World Food Program said it was scaling up food assistance to more than 220,000 people with the delivery of nearly 1,000 tons of rice—around one month's ration.

"We have rice stocks at a warehouse in Cotabato, close to the affected area, and we've acted quickly to move food out to where it is most needed," said WFP country director Stephen Anderson.

ASIAN BRIEFS

10 South Koreans killed in car crash in northern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police say 10 South Korean passengers are dead after their van smashed into a warehouse along a road in the northern Philippines. Pangasinan provincial police director Isagani Nerez says the accident happened in Bolinao town, where some of the victims were brought to a hospital following Thursday's crash. Nerez says most of the Koreans were residents of the northern city of Baguio.

Bite reveals 51 poisonous snakes in apartment

TOKYO (AP)—A nearly fatal bite by a poisonous snake led to the arrest of a man Wednesday for keeping 51 deadly cobras and mambas in his Tokyo apartment without permission, police said. The illicit collection was discovered when Nobukazu Kashiwagi called for an ambulance after being bitten on a finger by one of his snakes, a spokesman for the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department said Wednesday on condition of anonymity, citing department policy. Kashiwagi, aged 41, was trying to feed the snake when he was bitten in mid July. He was seriously ill in a Tokyo hospital for several weeks, but subsequently recovered. Police arrested Kashiwagi after he was discharged, the spokesman said. Kashiwagi kept the deadly snakes without permission from the Tokyo metropolitan government, the police spokesman said.

Thai protest refuses order to leave gov't compound

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thai authorities stepped up pressure Wednesday on demonstrators occupying the grounds of the prime minister's office, getting court orders demanding the crowd disperse and issuing arrest warrants for nine protest leaders on insurrection charges. The actions raised tensions at the protest site, where at least 2,000 police faced a crowd of rightist demonstrators that appeared to number as many as the 30,000 estimated to have protested the previous day when the compound was seized. About 5,000 members of the People's Alliance for Democracy camped on the grounds of Government House to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej, while thousands more filled adjoining streets.

World

Gustav kills 22 in Caribbean

AP

Residents stand in front of several houses destroyed by a landslide in Guachupita, Santo Domingo, Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Gustav swirled toward Cuba on Wednesday after triggering flooding and landslides that killed at least 22 people in the Caribbean. Its track pointed toward the U.S. Gulf coast, including Louisiana where Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc three years ago.

Oil prices jumped above US$119 a barrel as workers began to evacuate from the offshore rigs responsible for a quarter of U.S. crude production and much of America's natural gas.

"We know it's going to head into the Gulf. After that, we're not sure where it's heading," said Rebecca Waddington, a meteorologist at the Miami-based National Hurricane Center. "For that reason, everyone in Gulf needs to be monitoring the storm. At that point, we're expecting it to be a Category 3 hurricane."

On Wednesday, Gustav was moving off of Haiti's southwestern peninsula into the waters between Cuba and Jamaica. Its tentative track pointed directly at the Cayman Islands, an offshore banking center where residents boarded up homes and stocked up on emergency supplies in preparation for a possible direct hit Friday.

Baghdad plans to build giant Ferris wheel

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq is calling on companies to submit designs to build a giant Ferris wheel in Baghdad—the latest in a string of lavish proposals painting the capital as a leisure friendly city

The Ferris wheel, dubbed the Baghdad Eye, will soar more than 650 feet over the city and feature air-conditioned compartments that would each carry up to 30 passengers, Baghdad municipal spokesman Adel al-Ardawi said Wednesday.

Three possible locations in Baghdad have been selected, but officials are waiting to see what proposals are submitted before picking one, al-Ardawi said, declining to give an estimated construction cost or timeline.

"We hope to attract a great number of customers who will be able to see the whole city and enjoy the restaurants and pools on ground below," he told The Associated Press.

Tourism is a tough sell in Iraq, however, because there are still suicide attacks that kill dozens and infrastructure is weak. But since insurgent attacks and sectarian bloodshed have declined over the past year, Iraqis are venturing outside their homes.

Western nations warn Russia to 'change course'

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—Western leaders warned Russia on Wednesday to "change course," hoping to keep a conflict that already threatens a key nuclear pact and could even raise U.S. chicken prices from blossoming into a new Cold War.

Moscow said it was NATO expansion and Western support for Georgia that was causing the new East-West divisions, and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin lashed out at the United States for using military ships to deliver humanitarian aid to Georgia.

Meanwhile, Georgia slashed its embassy staff in Moscow to protest Russia's recognition of the two separatist enclaves that were the flashpoint for the five-day war between the two nations earlier this month.

The tensions have spread to the Black Sea, which Russia shares unhappily with three nations that belong to NATO and two others that desperately want to, Ukraine and Georgia. Some Ukrainians fear Moscow might set its sights on their nation next.

In moves evocative of Cold War cat-and-mouse games, a U.S. military ship carrying humanitarian aid docked at a southern Georgian port, and Russia sent a missile cruiser and two other ships to a port farther north in a show of force.

Liberian ex-warlord dodges questions at hearing

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP)—A former Liberian warlord whose drugged fighters once appeared on camera holding up a human heart dodged questions Wednesday and refused to accept any wrongdoing during an appearance before a public commission.

Sekou Conneh is the former head of the rebel group that encircled Liberia's capital and heavily shelled it in the final months of Liberia's 14-year conflict in 2003.

Conneh appeared before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and argued he should be treated as a hero for having launched the attack that led to the defeat of President Charles Taylor, himself on trial for war crimes at The Hague, Netherlands.

Taylor's forces have been accused of numerous atrocities—including eating the hearts of their slain enemies. But the rebel group Conneh led is also blamed for barbaric actions.

Off the Wall

Boy, 12, accused of fleeing Texas police at 60 mph

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP)—A 12-year-old boy took his grandmother's car and led police on a chase at speeds up to 60 mph before swerving to avoid spikes in the road and crashing into a fence, police said.

The boy was treated for a small cut to the head then taken to Nueces County Juvenile Justice Center, where he remained in custody Tuesday, chief juvenile probation officer Homer Flores said. Corpus Christi Police Capt. Todd Green said officials spotted the youngster in the car late Monday at a stop sign near his grandparents' home. Names of the boy and his grandparents were not released.

When an officer approached the boy, he sped away and the pursuit began, authorities said.

Authorities placed spikes in the road to stop him. While swerving to avoid them, he lost control of the car, struck a curb and ran into a chain-link fence, police said. He was stopped about a mile from his grandparents' house.

Green said he was going as fast as 60 mph in a 35 mph zone. He said the boy does not appear to have a history of theft or other criminal activity. Officials believe he was living with his grandparents.

AP

TOMATO FIGHT

Spanish revelers throw tomatoes during the annual food fight, the Tomatina, in the town of Bunol, Spain, Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008. Revelers pelted each with 113 tons of ripe tomatoes in an annual food fight. Town hall says an estimated 40,000 people took part in the hour of messy fun. Some warriors in Wednesday's battle wore swimming goggles to protect themselves from the acid sting of projectiles in the form of pear-shaped tomatoes. Others swatted them away with tennis rackets. Afterward, many washed off in a nearby river while crews hosed down a town painted red. Each year thousands of people gather to hurl truckloads of tomatoes at each other. Local lore says it began in the mid-1940s with a food battle that broke out between youngsters near a vegetable stand on the town square in Bunol.

No buyers for Wis. man's million-mile Chevy—yet

CATAWBA, Wis. (AP)—A 1991 Chevrolet Silverado that has traveled more than 1 million miles is still on the market, its owner says, though it failed to fetch the premium price that he had hoped for.

Frank Oresnik said he failed to sell the 1991 truck during a 10-day auction on eBay that ended Sunday. He had placed a minimum bid of $30,000, and said all he got was a couple of feelers.

But he's not giving up.

The 58-year-old Oresnik said he is going to put the truck back on eBay later this week with no minimum bid.

Oresnik bought the truck 12 years ago when it had 41,000 miles. He used the vehicle to deliver seafood in three states, putting on about 85,000 miles a year.

When the odometer hit a million miles earlier this year, on a road near Fond du Lac, the feat brought him national attention.

Over the years, the truck has had four radiators, three gas tanks and six water pumps, but the engine is still original. He practiced such car-friendly techniques as always letting the engine warm up first, even in summer, according to the Web site http://www.roadsbridges.com .

Ga. town's scarecrows haunting for world record

HOSCHTON, Ga. (AP)—This small northeastern Georgia town's population boom is frightening. In a bid to break a world record for scarecrows and scare up some fun for the fall season, thousands of straw-stuffed newcomers are creeping across town.

There's a scuba diver, the Georgia Bulldogs football team and—of course—the cast of the Wizard of Oz. Even likenesses of Jesus and Elvis popped up.

The 1,700 real residents of Hoschton hope to nearly triple their population with 4,000 scarecrows and break the Guinness World Record for "Most Scarecrows in One Location."

The title belongs to the Cincinnati Horticultural Society's Cincinnati Flower and Farm Fest, which set the record in 2003 with 3,311 scarecrows.

Antique dealer Robbie Bettis and her husband, Fred, are leading the effort for the town's fall festival, which begins Monday.

On Wednesday they watched over an assembly line at an old downtown train depot, where about 20 people passed wooden frames among tables of dingy clothes, yellow milk jugs, plastic grocery bags, old hats, twine, ribbon and other donated materials

"We thought if we gave people something fun to do then maybe they will forget about the difficult economy," she said. "Winning the world record is just a byproduct."

Crows and criminals beware: Two men caught knocking over scarecrows were sentenced to build 25 of them, lest they face trespassing charges, Mayor Bill Copenhaver said.

Baby boy born on airliner while en route to Australia

DARWIN, Australia (AP)—An Indian woman gave birth to a healthy boy aboard a jet airliner while flying to Australia to reunite with her husband.

Judith Hamel, one of four doctors who helped deliver the 6 pound baby aboard the Cathay Pacific flight from Hong Kong to the southern city of Adelaide, described the delivery as smooth.

"I think we all had fun once we knew it was all safe," Hamel told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio Wednesday.

The flight was diverted to the northern city of Darwin where the 29-year-old mother, Paramjit Kaur, from Punjab state in northwest India, and the baby were admitted to the Royal Darwin Hospital within two hours of the birth, a hospital spokeswoman said on customary condition of anonymity. The mother was 34 weeks' pregnant when she took the first flight of her life from New Delhi. She and her first born, six weeks premature, were both well.

The child's father, Jagdar Jagdar, an Indian-born Australian citizen who drives taxis in Adelaide, flew the 1,900 miles to join his wife and child at the hospital in the early hours of Thursday morning, the spokeswoman said.

Kaur is an Indian citizen entitled to live in Australia as the spouse of an Australian. Her son also becomes an Indian citizen.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Charge dismissed in case of dog registered to vote

FEDERAL WAY, Wash. (AP)—A judge has decided that a suburban Seattle woman who registered her Australian shepherd-terrier mix to vote has spent enough time in the legal doghouse. Jane Balogh (BAY'-loh) had been charged with making a false statement but entered into a plea agreement last year. A King County judge dismissed the charge Monday after Balogh showed that she had paid $240 in court costs and completed community service. Balogh says she registered her dog Duncan to protest a loophole in the law that she says makes voter registration so easy a nonexistent person could be added to the voter rolls. She says she made no secret of her action after the fact, telling a number of elected officials she had registered her dog. And she says Duncan never voted.

Wash. rodeo coordinator loses 2nd finger on job

WATERVILLE, Wash. (AP)—Some people may lose sleep on the job or even lose the stapler off their desk. Dane Keane loses fingers. The 52-year-old Washington rodeo coordinator was helping to secure a bull in a bucking chute Saturday evening when his finger got caught between a rope and a metal fence pole. His left index finger ended up being amputated at the second joint. But it wasn't his first time losing a finger on the job. In 2000, Keane lost the end of his right ring finger to a bull. Keane, also a Douglas County commissioner, says he loves the rodeo but says it's "a little on the bad luck side" for him.

Amtrak train runs out of fuel, stranded 2 hours

SAN DIEGO (AP)—It was the little engine that couldn't—because it was thirsty for fuel. A quick train trip down the coast turned into a long haul for more than 80 Amtrak passengers when their train from Los Angeles to San Diego ran out of fuel Sunday night Amtrak spokesman Cliff Cole said the train sat for about two hours on the northern edge of San Diego before another engine came along to push it the last several miles to the San Diego train station. The train, which had left Los Angeles at 8:30 p.m., didn't get there until 1:15 a.m. Monday, two hours late. A train running out of fuel is "an unusual occurrence" and Amtrak officials will be looking into how it happened, Cole said.

Okla. state worker temporarily gets 6-figure bonus

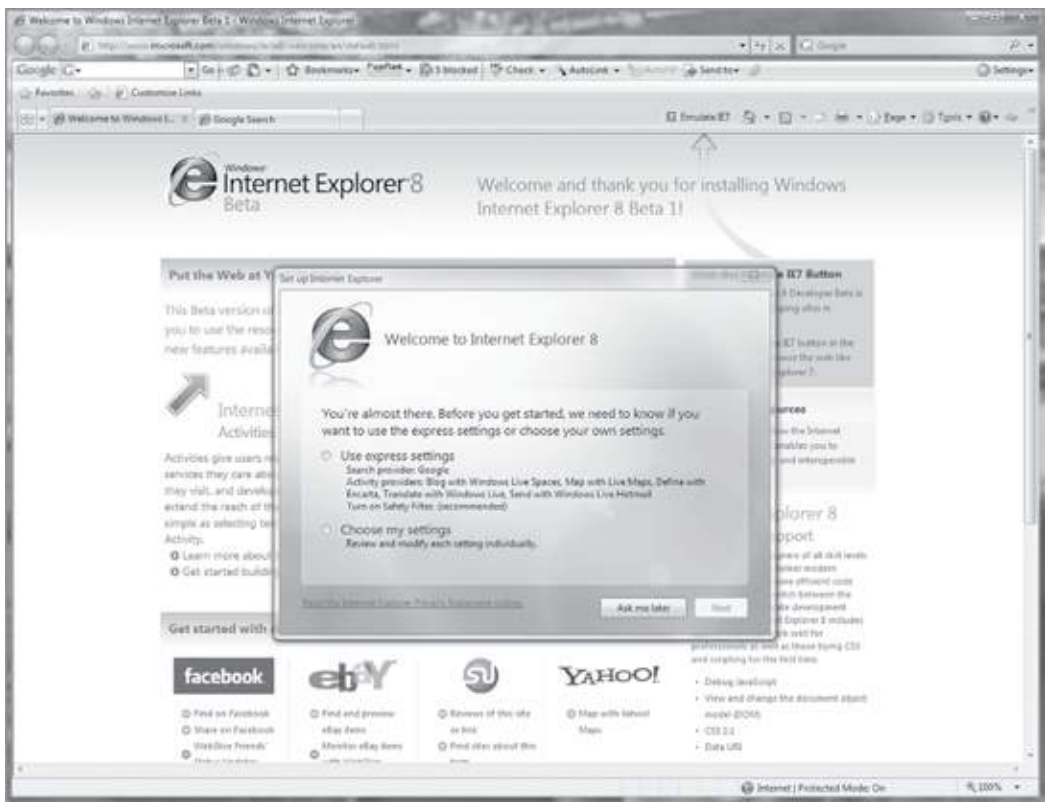
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Oklahoma officials say a typo resulted in a state employee receiving a bonus of $850,000—but it was only temporary. Jo Harris was supposed to receive an $850 longevity bonus for working at the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission for seven years. But a misplaced decimal point turned that into a six-figure windfall. Officials say they caught the error before the $850,000 left state funds. Harris's original paycheck issued in February was canceled and a new one was issued with the correct bonus. Officials told Harris about the mistake and asked her to watch her personal bank account. Harris said she would let state officials know right away if the extra money entered her account because "I don't go to jail for anybody."

Man uses Barbie fishing rod to make record catch

ELKIN, N.C. (AP)— David Hayes' granddaughter just ask him to hold her Barbie rod and reel while she went to the bathroom. He did. And seconds later he landed the state record channel catfish at 21 pounds, 1 ounce. Alyssa's father had bought the pink Barbie fishing rod for Christmas and she had caught a few bluegill before her grandfather hauled in the catfish. The Winston-Salem Journal reported the catch Aug. 5 in eastern Wilkes County has been certified as a record by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Hayes and his granddaughter have been fishing in the pond behind his house since she was big enough to hold a pole. Hayes said his granddaughter worried he would break her rod. He landed the 21-pound fish on a 6-pound test line. It was 32 inches long, 2 inches longer than the rod.

Science & Technology

Microsoft's newest browser may block ads


Internet Explorer 8
Beta
Welcome and thank you for installing Windows Internet Explorer 8 Beta 1!
Welcome to Internet Explorer 8
You're almost there. Before you get started, we need to know if you want to use the express settings or choose your own settings.
Use express settings
Choose my settings
Review and modify each setting individually.
Ask me later
facebook
ebay
YAHOO!

Microsoft Corp.'s newest Web browser, Internet Explorer 8.

SEATTLE (AP)—The next version of Microsoft Corp.'s Web browser makes it easier for people to surf the Internet without leaving a trace. Companies that sell advertisements online—including Microsoft—can electronically gather tidbits about Web surfers' habits, and then use that information to help decide what kinds of ads to show. However, in the newest "beta" test version of Microsoft's forthcoming Internet Explorer 8, which was made available Wednesday, a mode called InPrivateBrowsing lets users surf without having a list of sites they visit get stored on their computers.

The program also covers other footprints, including temporary Internet files and cookies, the small data files that Web sites put on visitors' computers to track their activities.

Both Internet Explorer 7, Microsoft's current browser, and Mozilla's recently released Firefox 3, already allow users to block cookies. The top two browsers also let users delete private information such as temporary files and browsing history after the fact. But they can't turn off that collection entirely.

The beta also introduces an additional InPrivateBlocking mode, which can block third-party content from appearing on Web sites. For example, a news site might carry stock quotes from one company and weather information from another. Companies that provide such content may also be collecting and sharing information about what people do online. But users who turn on InPrivateBlocking won't see that content or be exposed to such data collection without their consent.

InPrivateBlocking can also keep some types of ads from appearing—including those served up by Microsoft's own advertising platform, whose success is considered critical to the software maker's future.

JJ Richards, a general manager in Microsoft's advertising division, responded in a statement that consumers understand that they get free content and services in exchange for advertising, but want "transparency, trust and control with respect to the sites they visit."

"If IE8 helps heighten awareness of this value exchange, that's a step in the right direction," he said.

Users surfing with InPrivateBlocking turned on can review a list of which companies are trying to display or collect data. Users also can click a link to read more and decide case by case whether to permit certain ones to go ahead.

"Today as a user, we have no visibility or control over how that information is shared and recorded," said James Pratt, a product manager for IE8. "I wouldn't put Microsoft as being the arbiter of what should and shouldn't be tracked."

InPrivateBlocking isn't purely an ad-blocker by design, but publishers are still worried, said Mike Zaneis, vice president of public policy for the Internet Advertising Bureau, which represents Web publishers.

If InPrivateBlocking were widely adopted by IE8 users, small sites that rely almost exclusively on outside companies to serve ads couldn't survive, he said. The Internet ad economy didn't crash after ad-blocking plug-ins appeared for Firefox, but Zaneis said that may have more to do with Firefox's much smaller market share. (Firefox's challenge to IE has grown, however; the browser is used by more than 10 percent of Web surfers.)

If IE8 blocks programs that track how many times an ad is seen—a calculation that helps determine payments to advertisers and publishers—that could also bring down the Web ad marketplace, Zaneis noted.

"We'll wait and see what the marketplace looks like," he said. "I think (Microsoft) realizes, we all realize that it's a beta version, and it's sure to change before it's finalized."

An earlier IE8 beta showed off many bells and whistles that make Web browsing easier. Since then, Microsoft said it also improved the address bar's ability to figure out users' intended Web destination as they type.

That 'friend' may be a worm

By MIKE MUSGROVE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—If, by chance, you've received a message from a "friend" in the last few days saying that you've been caught on tape, it's not true. Unless you're Paris Hilton.

But no, she's been tossing a dwarf. OK, not really, but those are just two of the scams Facebook and MySpace users have been hit with recently.

The malicious software attempts to lure users in with messages ranging from "You've been catched on hidden cam" to the one about Hilton tossing a dwarf on the street. The messages contain a link that takes unsuspecting users to a Web page that looks like YouTube. There the page tells visitors that to view the video, they need to click on another link to download and install updated software. Those who fall for the scam are actually installing malicious software.

The worm, called Koobface, turns compromised computers into "zombie" machines that can be used in other types of online attacks. The malicious software may also include keylogger software, which can record a computer user's keystrokes—and potentially grab passwords when they are entered on a computer.

Alexander Gostev, senior virus analyst at computer security firm Kaspersky Lab, said in a statement that this type of attack could be a successful one for hackers. "Users are very trusting of messages left by 'friends' on social networking sites. So the likelihood of a user clicking on a link like this is very high," he said.

Facebook has also been alerting users to a hoax message claiming that the site is overpopulated and that some accounts soon will be deleted.

Facebook's security page offers a few common-sense suggestions for those worried about security. ("If a link or a message seems weird, don't click on it," is one tip.) The company is still investigating the malware attack, according to a spokesman.

Researchers offer new way to avoid bogus Web sites

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Intercepting Internet traffic, and spying on the communication between two computers, is a gold mine for hackers. Now Carnegie Mellon University researchers hope software they've built will make it harder for criminals to hit that jackpot.

The software, a free download for use with latest version of the Firefox Web browser, creates an additional way for people to verify whether the site they're trying to visit is authentic.

Most browsers already alert users when a site appears bogus. One way is by warning that a site that claims to be equipped to handle confidential information securely hasn't been verified by a third party, like VeriSign Inc. or GoDaddy.com Inc. Those are two of many companies that sell so-called Secure Sockets Layer certificates, which generate the padlock icon in the address bar.

The problem, the Carnegie Mellon researchers say, is that many people are perplexed about how to proceed once they get one of those warnings about a bad certificate.

Some click through, going on to malicious sites that steal their personal information, while others retreat, skipping over harmless sites that used less expensive, "self-signed" certificates.

So the researchers—David Andersen, Adrian Perrig and Dan Wendlandt—created a program that performs a novel extra step. It can tap into a network of publicly accessible servers that have been programmed to ping Web sites and record changes in the encryption keys they use to secure data.

Any discrepancy can be a sign that hackers are rerouting traffic through machines under their control, a pernicious type of attack known as a "man in the middle."

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q: The new Cuil search engine says it has indexed 120 billion Web pages, three times more than other sites. Does that mean if I use Google or MSN I can't get to billions of Web pages?

A: In case you don't follow every new outburst of Web start-up hype, Cuil (cuil.com) is a search site founded by a few Google alumni. It launched July 28 with promises of vastly improved performance, but its record has been much less impressive. I've found that Cuil (pronounced "cool") delivers scattershot results. It can take you on interesting detours—and is worth a shot if other search engines can't deliver—but for everyday use, you're better off sticking with a site you know.

■■■

Even Web browsers that block pop-up ads sometimes fail to stop a few—and many of the pop-ups crafted to evade the defenses of modern browsers seem to come from slimy developers trying to get you to install software you don't need. The more one of these ads tries to convince you that you must fix something on your computer NOW!, the greater the odds that the people behind it want to sneak some adware or spyware onto your computer. And, if that happens, you will probably be stuck with a messy, prolonged cleanup.

Never install a program that a strange Web page insists you need now, no matter how convincing its reasons might seem. If you're not sure, write down the program's name, then run a Web search (something like "is (program name) dangerous?") to see if it has a bad reputation.

■■■

This question comes up all the time: "My anti-spyware program keeps telling me about tracking cookies it's found in my browser. Are they dangerous?" Well, cookies aren't software of any kind; they're nothing but tiny text files that a Web site can save to your computer to store bits of information, then read and edit later on. Most are innocuous. But some cookies, called "third party cookies" or "tracking cookies," are set by advertising networks that hope to get a better idea of your interests across multiple sites. These may impede your privacy, but not your security; if they bug you, just tell your browser to refuse them by adjusting its privacy settings.

■■■

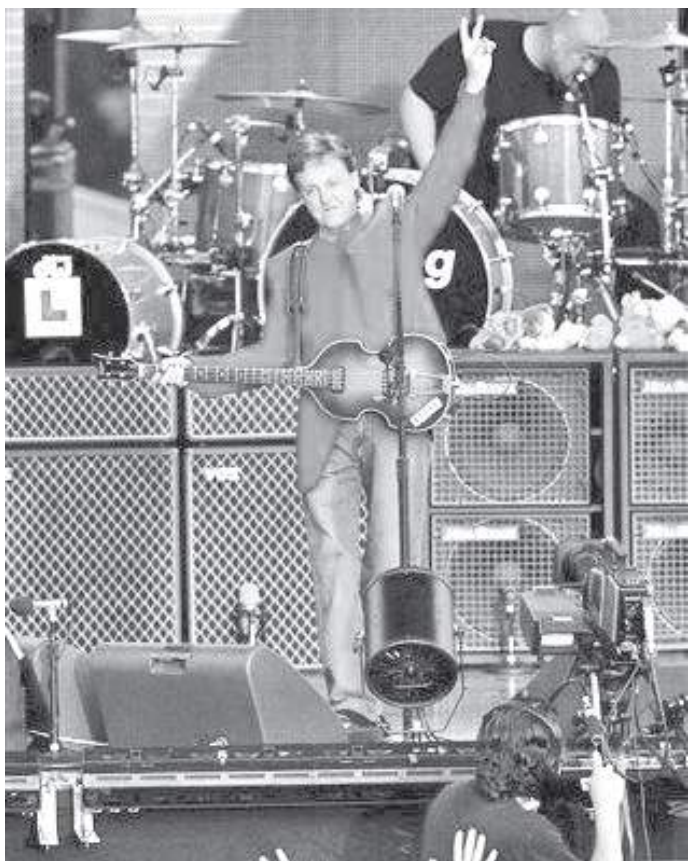
If a part on your computer breaks—the keyboard, the mouse, the power adapter or the battery, for example—the easy and obvious thing is to march into the store and buy whatever replacement bears the computer's original manufacturer name. But that will lead you to spend more money than you should: Aftermarket parts from other companies almost always cost less and often carry functional advantages as well.

For example, third-party laptop batteries often run longer and aftermarket AC adapters often weigh less than name-brand originals. You should, of course, make sure that the parts you're considering are clearly labeled as being compatible with your make and model of PC and come with a satisfactory return policy that won't sock you with a "restocking fee" if you take them back to the store.

■■■

Google Maps (maps.google.com), the cartography site run by the Web-search giant, can be your easiest Web-mapping option, thanks to the Google-search shortcuts in most browsers' toolbars. But, for all its smart, sensible features, Google Maps falls short of Microsoft's Live Search Maps (maps.live.com) in some areas. One is accuracy of driving directions: Google's site won't route you on certain interstates with rush-hour restrictions, while Microsoft's map trusts you to follow HOV rules. Another is photographic detail: Live Search Maps' "Bird's eye" views, with photos shot from an angle and only a few hundred feet up, can help you get your bearings much quicker than the straight-overhead satellite imagery at Google and other mapping sites.

Life & Style



In this May 24, 2003, former Beatle Sir Paul McCartney performs during his concert in Red Square in Moscow.

AP

Paul McCartney gig revives Israeli Beatles tale

JERUSALEM (AP)—An upcoming concert by Paul McCartney has revived memories of the 1960s, when an Israeli official supposedly called off a Beatles concert for fear it would corrupt the nation's youth.

The episode is often fondly quoted as a relic of a long-lost Israel where the public's innocence needed protecting.

Trouble is, the story might not be true: With Israelis in a tizzy about McCartney's arrival, the official's son is taking the opportunity to try to clear his father's name, calling the tale a "Zionist urban legend."

So pervasive is the story of the concert's cancellation 43 years ago that this year Israel's ambassador in London wrote a letter expressing regret over the matter to surviving members of the band. He told them the country would like to make it up to them: come play during this year's celebrations marking Israel's 60th anniversary. "Israel missed a chance to learn from the most influential musicians of the decade, and the Beatles missed an opportunity to reach out to one of the most passionate audiences in the world," Ambassador Ron Prosor wrote.

On Wednesday, McCartney confirmed the Sept. 25 concert in Tel Aviv, which had been rumored for days.

In a news release, McCartney acknowledged the brouhaha, saying he is finally coming "43 years after being banned by the Israeli government." He promised to give Israelis "the night they have been waiting decades for."

Even before McCartney announced the show, tickets went on sale at prices ranging from $140 to $430.

The Israeli official blamed for canceling the 1965 concert was Yaakov Sarid, a stern-faced man in horn-rimmed glasses who was the Education Ministry's director.

He is remembered today—to the extent that he is remembered at all—mainly for his alleged role in denying Israeli youth their chance to faint and scream at the Fab Four. Also implicated is David Ben-Gurion, Israel's founding father and prime minister at the time.

BEST SELLERS

(c) 2008 Los Angeles Times

Nonfiction

1. ***The Last Lecture***, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: $21.95) A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.
2. ***The Way of the World***, by Ron Suskind (Harper: $27.95) Suskind writes that America must regain its lost moral authority to fight nuclear terrorism.
3. ***The Dark Side***, by Jane Mayer (Doubleday: $27.50) Mayer argues that the White House amassed power in the post-9/11 state of panic to devastating results.
4. ***The Obama Nation***, by Jerome R. Corsi (Threshold Editions: $28) The reasons against an Obama presidency and why he should be defeated.
5. ***When You Are Engulfed in Flames***, by David Sedaris (Little, Brown: $25.99) Musings on life and smoking.
6. ***sTORI Telling***, by Tori Spelling (Simon Spotlight: $24.95) The old-school 90210 star tells all.
7. ***The Secret***, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: $23.95) Life's secrets, distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.
8. ***Just Who Will You Be?*** by Maria Shriver (Hyperion: $14.95) Ask who, not what, you want to be.
9. ***Goodnight Bush***, by Erich Origen and Gan Golan (Little, Brown: $14.99) A parody of the children's classic Goodnight Moon.
10. ***Are You There, Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea***, by Chelsea Handler (Simon Spotlight Entertainment: $24.95) The talk-show host skewers dating, family and work.

Fiction

1. ***Breaking Dawn***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little Brown: $22.99) The final book in the Twilight saga finds Bella choosing immortality as a vampire.
2. ***Moscow Rules***, by Daniel Silva (Putnam: $26.95) The death of a journalist leads Gabriel Allon to a Russian arms dealer.
3. ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society***, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Dial Press: $22) A writer's correspondence with an island's inhabitants in the aftermath of German occupation.
4. ***Eclipse***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $19.99)Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, life and death.
5. ***The 19th Wife***, by David Ebershoff (Random House: $26) Two narratives intertwine in this story of polygamy, past and present.
6. ***Chasing Darkness***, by Robert Crais (Simon & Schuster: $25.95) When a man cleared of a murder charge is found dead, Elvis Cole is called to account.
7. ***The Host***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $25.99) Alien invaders take over the minds of humans.
8. ***Acheron***, by Sherrilyn Kenyon (St. Martin's: $24.95) In this installment of the Dark-Hunter series, a deity is brought back to life to defend mankind.
9. ***The Enchantress of Florence***, by Salman Rushdie (Random House: $26) A traveler arrives at the Mughal emperor's court with a beguiling tale.
10. ***Artemis Fowl: The Time Paradox***, by Eoin Colfer (Hyperion: $17.99) Artemis must travel back in time to find a cure for his dying mother.

In Humble Gratitude

We the children and family of the late

†Maria Terlaje Santos Muna

wist to express our sincerest and heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our families, relative and friends for your thoughtful expression of love, sympathy, prayers and personal assistance and support during the difficult time of sorrow in the painful passing of our beloved mother †MARIA into the hands of our Heavenly Father.

Our sincerest gratitude to Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, and to the clergy of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa who assisted in the Eucharistic Celebration and interment rites. Thank you to Tan Ko' Palacios and the altar services. Our appreciation of the Kantaye Kristo Rai choir and our techa Ms. Helen Sablan.

We would like acknowledge Dr. Aldan of Saipan Health Clinic, Dr. Arcillia, Dr. Loutuby and ICU staff and nurses who attended to our beloved mother with their utmost care and compassion.

To all who have supported us in one way or another, for your presence gave us the strength and courage to bear the passing of our beloved mother. As you have remembered our mother in your prayers, likewise, we will always remember you and your loved ones in ours.

MAY GOD BLESS US ALL.

THANK YOU AND SI YUUS MAASE

THE FAMILY

Thousands stage anti-war protest march

Protesters lead a march after an anti-war concert at the Coliseum in Denver, Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008. AP

DENVER (AP)—A column of people three blocks long, led by members of the Iraq Veterans Against the War, streamed from the Denver Coliseum on Wednesday in an anti-war protest march to the Pepsi Center, where the Democratic National Convention is being staged.

As many as 50 soldiers wearing army fatigues led the noisy but peaceful protest into downtown and toward the Pepsi Center as police and bystanders watched.

"We are the veterans! The Iraq War veterans! The anti-war veterans!" they chanted. "We are soldiers! Anti-war soldiers!"

Crowd estimates, generally around 2,000, were fluid as the group lost and picked up people along the way.

A sit-in was planned at the convention site.

Iraq Veterans Against the War wants Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama to agree to an immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq. They also want full health care benefits for returning troops and veterans, and reparations to the Iraqi people for damage caused by the war.

The group sent a letter to Obama on Monday.

The protest march began after a reunited Rage Against the Machine ended a concert that drew an estimated 9,000 people to the coliseum

Dozens of veterans, some in uniform, began the march in formation, chanting "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon." It is about 4 miles from the coliseum to the Pepsi Center

People on motorcycles and bicycles joined those on foot. Some people held signs that said "US out of Iraq" with red handprints and "No War on Iran." A few had the numbers of lawyers written on their bodies in case they were arrested.

Behind the veterans, protesters yelled: "Troops out now!" Jan Critchfield, 24, of Seattle said he served in Iraq in 2004, and after returning home, came to believe that the war was an "unlawful, immoral occupation."

He said now that he's back in the U.S., he thinks about what it's like for Iraqis living with U.S. forces in their country.

"I just can't imagine driving through my neighborhood at home and seeing a security checkpoint."

Critchfield said he joined the Army at 17 without much thought about the implications.

Jonny 5, Brer Rabbit and Andy Guerrero of the Denver group Flobots were with the marchers, as was Raymond "Boots" Riley of political hip-hop group The Coup.

First Death Anniversary

We, the parents and family of

Denise Zayleen Palacios Tenorio

would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in nine days of Holy Mass as we commemorate the passage into eternal life of our beloved daughter.

The following mass will commence on the following dates at San Antonio Church

Dates	Time
August 23, 2008	6:00 pm
August 24, 2008	9:00 am
August 25, 2008	6:00 pm
August 26, 2008	6:00 pm
August 27, 2008	6:00 pm
August 28, 2008	6:00 pm
August 29, 2008	6:00 pm
August 30, 2008	6:00 pm
August 31, 2008	9:00 am

On the final day, August 31, 2008, Sunday, join us for Dinner at 6:00 pm at Mr. & Mrs. Erwin Flores in Dandan

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you
Parents and Family

RECORD RACK

The Verve
"Forth" (On Your Own/MRI/Red)
✪✪✩

People take drugs for two reasons: because they desire something utterly predictable, or just the opposite. Bands like the Verve, a mainstay of England's psychedelically inclined 1990s rock scene, romanticized the first outcome in songs culled from free-form jam sessions and lyrics, by pretty preacher Richard Ashcroft, about shouting down inner demons in a struggle to perfect the soul.

But the Verve's most successful songs came closer to the second kind of chemical experience. Expansive but solid at the core, the band's commercially friendly rock produced the desired effect: Ashcroft's comforting platitudes reduced emotional inflammation, while Nick McCabe's forceful guitar effect (supported by a no-nonsense rhythm section) cleared the head like an antihistamine.

This comeback album (after eight years apart, the group reunited in 2007, triumphantly claiming the Coachella main stage this spring), is as solid as a dose of Extra Strength Tylenol. Balancing McCabe's love of athletic jamming with Ashcroft's bardic aspirations, "Forth" is centered on slowly building jams that pay off in transcendent choruses; a few shorter, more popwise songs, like the single "Love Is Noise," follow the precedent of the band's one huge international hit, the sample-happy "Bittersweet Symphony."

Like many an English lad before him, Ashcroft puts the sneer into soul; his fine-sandpaper voice tempers the music's heavenward thrust. It's satisfying, this blend of the angelic and the blokeish, but on "Forth" it never feels very urgent or original. If an anthem deficiency is what ails you, this album is a perfectly useful over-the-counter treatment. Just don't expect the trip to take you anywhere new. ***(Ann Powers/Los Angeles Times)***

Bloc Party
"Intimacy" (Atlantic Records)
✪✪✪✩

Of all the important things that the London post-punk outfit Bloc Party tried to do on its sophomore album, "A Weekend in the City"—confronting urban malaise, burgeoning sexual identity and the second-generation British immigrant experience, among them—the one thing singer Kele Okereke forgot was to be funny.

Sure, Bloc Party won the 2005 dance-rock sweepstakes on its soaring choruses and Okereke's earnest love pangs. But its third album, "Intimacy," released digitally Thursday, introduces a new instrument: the well-timed zinger. Take the glitched-up, nearly guitar-less lead single, "Mercury," which snidely promises that "In any part of the world, from Silver Lake to Williamsburg, you can pick another stranger and fall in love." Rarely has a band's own audience been so cleanly gutted in a song.

This vicious playfulness extends to the music as well, which trims off the magisterial excesses of "Weekend" while keeping the band's recent noisy electronica crush intact. "Zephyrus" is essentially a groaning dubstep tune, and "Trojan Horse" shreds a typical single-string guitar melody in a bank of overdriven filters.

Fans awaiting another floor-filler like "Banquet" won't find it here, as the album is melodic without being hugely tuneful. But the pleasures of "Intimacy" befit a band that tried to save the world and found it less grateful than Bloc Party had hoped. "I can be as cruel as you, fighting fire with firewood," Okereke deadpans. Maybe he's better with a dagger than he is with a bandage. ***(August Brown/Los Angeles Times)***

AP

Actress - singer Katharine McPhee attends a special screening of "The House Bunny" on Monday, Aug. 18, 2008 in New York.

'Idol's' McPhee is in "The House"

By NICKY LOOMIS
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—On a hot summer afternoon in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, "American Idol" finalist Katharine McPhee talks about her recent switch from singing to acting and boils down her role in "The House Bunny," which opens Friday, to two words: preggie suit.

"That's what they call it," she says, laughing at the memory of playing Harmony, a very pregnant hippie throwback who totes around a tub of peanut butter, spoon at the ready, and wears flower-child dresses.

Directed by Fred Wolf, a former "Saturday Night Live" writer, the movie stars Anna Faris as Shelley Darlingson, a Playboy bunny who gets kicked out of the mansion, left with her tan and the platform shoes on her feet, and becomes "house mother" to the un-cool Zeta Alpha Zeta sorority.

"It's kind of like 'Revenge of the Nerds,' but we're not really nerds," McPhee says. Characters are more in the slacker mold. "We just don't really care that much; my character is pregnant, so I really don't feel like doing anything."

Three years ago, McPhee was belting her way through her "American Idol" audition in San Francisco and was brought to tears as Simon Cowell told her, "You are sailing through to Hollywood, young lady." She finished the fifth season of the Fox TV talent competition as runner-up, signed with RCA and recorded an album that debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard 200. Sipping a mint lemonade and nibbling at her tuna on triangle toast at a local restaurant, the 24-year-old now says acting was the goal all along, even though she still is making music.

The transition, she says, comes with unique challenges. Although "Idol" offers enormous exposure for finalists, it does cement contestants in people's minds solely as singers. "There's still a lot of proving to do on my part," she says. "I just came from an audition with a big director," she adds, though she won't divulge the name so as not to jinx her chances.

Made by Adam Sandler's production company, Happy Madison, "The House Bunny" is the company's first female-driven comedy, with an ensemble cast that includes up-and-coming actresses Rumer Willis (daughter of Bruce Willis and Demi Moore), "Superbad" star Emma Stone, Kat Dennings ("The 40-Year-Old Virgin" and the upcoming "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist") and actor Colin Hanks.

McPhee may not have many lines, but she does sing twice—once in a very un-"Idol"-like karaoke performance, and once doing a modified cover of the Waitresses' 1982 hit "I Know What Boys Like," which plays over the credits.

On set, McPhee was able to improvise and came up with some funny moments that stayed in the movie, including one in which she squeegees her character's pregnant belly during a sexy carwash scene.

After '04 campaign, Alexandra Kerry chose to put impressions into words

By LIBBY COPELAND
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Back in 2004, filmmaker Alexandra Kerry set out to make a movie about her father John Kerry's quest for the presidency. Instead, she has turned her memories into a book, "Notes From the Trail," illustrated with stills from her footage.

Q: You'd shot these hundreds of hours of footage and then you write that you sat down in—I guess it was November—after the election to do it, and you didn't have enough distance.

A: I think that I was too close in terms of my interpretation, my perspective. And I also just felt like I didn't really want it out there for media consumption. ... It was a time when reality television was just starting to take hold, and I was afraid that it would be more interpreted as that than a documentary.

Q: You write about some of the more bizarre experiences of being on the campaign, and in one of them, being in West Virginia, and seeing some folks dressed up as flip-flops to deride your father's positions. ... One of those folks actually spat at your feet.

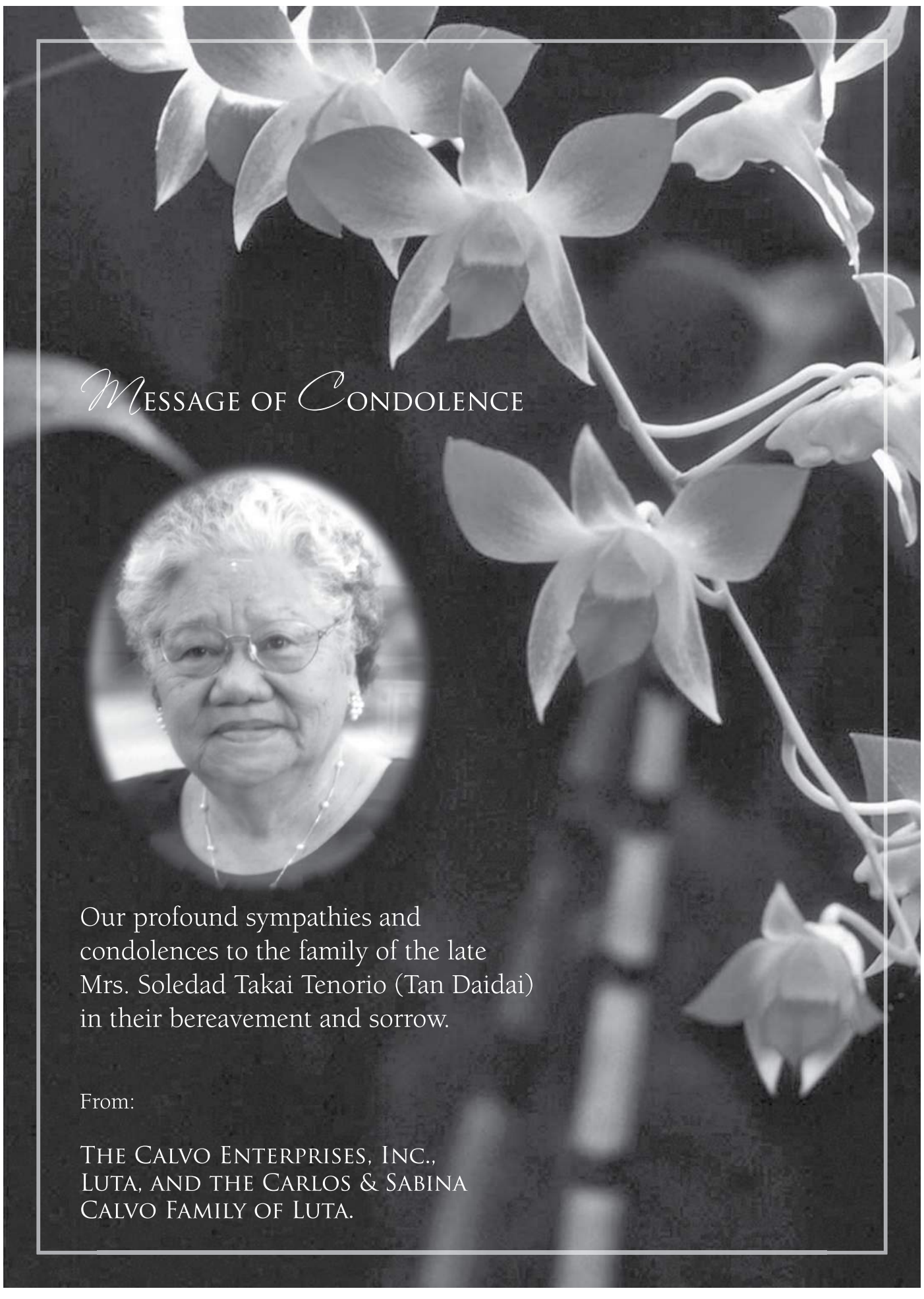
A: A lot of the time, we were somewhat protected behind the glass windows of the cars and the motorcade, or we were separated from audience by stage.But I would often go into the crowds and film. And that was right during a time when I was becoming a little bit more recognizable—and hadn't realized.

Q: You also say that your dad had an instinct to "allow for the complexities of the issues," and that you felt that this kind of got—I don't know if "twisted" is the right word—twisted in the coverage.

A: I wouldn't use the word "twisted." ... I would say I think that there isn't time. And I think my dad had a propensity for having longer discussions and probably longer speeches. (Laughs.) ... I think our world nowadays—and I generalize, it goes beyond politics—has less of an attention span for longer discussions.

Q: I had no idea you directed the television pilot for the "The Hills."

A: I did, I did. My friends tease me that now I'm responsible for Lauren and Heidi.


Message of Condolence
Our profound sympathies and
condolences to the family of the late
Mrs. Soledad Takai Tenorio (Tan Daidai)
in their bereavement and sorrow.
From:
The Calvo Enterprises, Inc.,
Luta, and the Carlos & Sabina
Calvo Family of Luta.

Venice Film Festival opens with Hollywood flash

VENICE, Italy (AP)—The Venice Film Festival opened Wednesday night with the premiere of the Coen brothers' dark comedy "Burn After Reading," giving a flash of Hollywood glamour to a festival lineup with a definite art house feel.

The 21 films competing for the coveted Golden Lion at the festival, which runs through Sept. 6, will provide a snapshot of world cinema, with entries from Ethiopia, Turkey, Algeria and a Brazilian-Chinese production.

While the lineup gives the impression of being light on celebrity-driven Hollywood fare—due both to the impact of last year's writers' strike and a late selection process for Cannes' springtime festival—festival director Marco Mueller said U.S. films are well represented.

"This is the second time—and it is a record for the history of the festival—we have five American films in competition," Mueller said, emphasizing that selections aren't based on any national criteria. "The festival is not an atlas of nations."

"Burn After Reading," starring George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Frances McDormand and Tilda Swinton, is among another five American films being shown out of competition.

The first U.S. film vying for the Golden Lion is Guillermo Arriaga's "The Burning Plain," starring Charlize Theron and Kim Basinger as a mother and daughter trying to forge a bond. The writer of "21 Grams" is making his debut as director.

Darren Aronofsky will present "The Wrestler," starring Mickey Rourke as a wrestler forced into retirement who strikes up a romance with an aging stripper played by Marisa Tomei. Jonathan Demme will be showing his "Rachel Getting Married" starring Anne Hathaway as a daughter whose return home for her sister's wedding brings out old tensions.

Kathryn Bigelow is bringing "The Hurt Locker," an Iraq war drama portraying soldiers who defuse bombs in the heat of war. Also among the U.S. entries is Iranian-born Amir Naderi's "Vegas: Based on a True Story," about the family life of a compulsive gambler.

Pitt picked up an award Wednesday that he won last year—the best actor's prize for "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford."

"You can run but you can't hide," Pitt joked as he accepted the award during the opening ceremony. "It was an honor to receive this last year and it remains an honor to accept this this year."

German filmmaker Wim Wenders, whose credits include "Paris, Texas" and "Buena Vista Social Club," is heading this year's jury.

"We will see 21 films and I hope—and I have a lot of confidence in Marco—that we will see 21 films that will give us the state of art of what is cinema today," Wenders said.

"Burn After Reading" is Clooney's third film with the Coen brothers—completing what he called "his trilogy of idiots" after "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" and "Intolerable Cruelty."

Pitt and McDormand play a pair of hapless gym employees who get in way over their heads when the memoirs of a failed CIA analyst, played by John Malkovich, fall into their hands and they try to peddle them as classified intelligence. Clooney plays a hypochondriac philanderer having an affair with the CIA analyst's disappointed wife, played by Swinton.

"We started writing the movie as kind of an exercise, thinking of what kind of parts these actors might play, what kind of story they might inhabit," Ethan Coen told a news conference.

The film is set within a spy story for no other reason than "we hadn't done one before," Joel Coen told reporters.

AP

Actors George Clooney, right, and Brad Pitt arrive for the premiere of the movie 'Burn After Reading' that opens the 65th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008.

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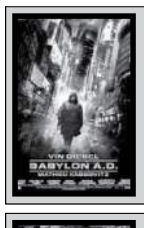

Babylon A.D.

Friday		4:00	7:10	9:35
Sat and Sun	1:15	4:00	7:10	9:35
Monday	1:15	4:00	7:10	
Tue thru Thurs		4:00	7:10	

Vin Diesel, Michelle Yeoh
Drama, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

It is the not-too-distant future. Thousands of satellites scan, observe and monitor our every move. Much of the planet is a war zone; the rest, a collection of wretched way stations, teeming megalopolises, and vast wastelands punctuated by areas left radioactive from nuclear meltdowns. It is a world made for hardened warriors, one of whom, a mercenary known only as Toorop, lives by a simple survivor's code: kill or be killed. His latest assignment has him smuggling a young woman named Aurora from a convent in Kazakhstan to New York City.

Traitor

Friday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Sat and Sun	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Monday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Tue thru Thurs		4:10	7:25	

Don Cheadle, Guy Pearce
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

When straight arrow FBI agent Roy Clayton heads up the investigation into a dangerous international conspiracy, all clues seem to lead back to former U.S. Special Operations officer, Samir Horn. A mysterious figure with a web of connections to terrorist organizations, Horn has a knack for emerging on the scene just as a major operation goes down. The inter-agency task force looking into the case meets with Carter, a veteran CIA contractor who seemingly has his own agenda and Max Archer, a fellow FBI agent.

★ ★ ★

Death Race

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:55
Sat and Sun	1:25	4:30	7:20	9:55
Monday	1:25	4:30	7:20	
Tue thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R

Mirrors

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:45
Sat and Dun	1:30	4:25	7:30	9:45
Monday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Tue thru Thurs		4:25	7:30	

Kiefer Sutherland, Paula Patton
Thriller, Horror • Rated R

Tropic Thunder

Friday		4:20	7:15	10:00
Sat and Sun	1:10	4:20	7:15	10:00
Monday	1:10	4:20	7:15	
Tue thru Thurs		4:20	7:15	

Ben Stiller, Jack Black
Comedy • Rated R

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor

Friday		4:15	7:05	9:30
Sat and Sun	1:05	4:15	7:05	9:30
Monday	1:05	4:15	7:05	
Tue thru Thurs		4:15	7:05	

Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Dark Knight

Friday		@	7:00	@
Sat and Sun	1:00	@	7:00	@
Monday	1:00	@	7:00	
Tue thru Thurs		@	7:00	

Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Star Wars: The Clone Wars

Friday		4:05	@	9:50
Sat ans Sun	@	4:05	@	9:50
Monday	@	4:05	@	
Tue thru Thurs		4:05	@	

Christopher Lee, Anthony Daniels
Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Animated • Rated PG

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Jill Jackson's HOLLYWOOD

HOLLYWOOD—Brad Pitt goes before the cameras again after all the birthings and fatherings. Somebody has to pay all those bills. The film is Quentin Tarantino's "Inglorious Bastards," a World War II film set in France. Pitt will play Lt. Aldo Raine, a Southern rebel who leads a band of Jewish-American soldiers as they reap vengeance on Nazis in German-occupied France. After this one, he goes into "The Fighter" for Paramount. And so it seems the Pitts can afford that staff of 20 and several abodes in several cities. AND every time I write something about Brad, I remember when I first saw him in "Thelma and Louise." He merely stuck his head in the car window and said one line. I wrote: "He's going to be a big star someday." And is he ever!

Aside to Rupert C. of Hammond, La.: Nope, Aaron Eckhart was not born in Australia; he was born in California in Silicon Valley. His family traveled around a lot, and he traveled with them until he set out on his own. As you know, he was in "The Dark Knight," and his next is "Towelhead," about the neighbor of a lonely 13-year-old Arab-American girl who goes to live in the suburbs of Houston. She gets a fix on Aaron's character, and you will have to wait for the film to learn the rest of the story.

Hilary Swank has bought the rights to the bestselling book "French Women Don't Get Fat." She will have it developed into a romantic comedy, and of course will star in this story of a champagne company manager who learns some tough lessons in life. By the way, did you know that Hilary is half Native American and half Spanish, and that she competed in the swimming competition in the Junior Olympics when she was younger? AND to prepare for her role in "Boys Don't Cry," she spent a month living as a man. She was born in Lincoln, Neb., and attended Santa Monica City College.

Scarlett Johansson was gorgeous in a scarlet to-the-floor gown at the Hollywood premiere of Woody Allen's "Vicky Christina Barcelona." Scarlett praised Woody to the skies, having worked with him three times and enjoying every outing. The picture has had premieres in New York and several other cities. All with a lot of "huggin' and kissin'" and applauding.

Matt Czuchry

Don Johnson will be coming back to the American movie scene. He's been abroad for several years working in films in foreign countries. He already has two pictures on his platter, "When in Rome" and "A Good Old-Fashioned Orgy." In "Rome," he plays the father of Kristen Bell, who steals coins from an Italian fountain and then finds herself receiving visits from strangers who have thrown coins in the fountain and are now in love with her. Johnson's last studio movie was "Tin Cup" back in 1996.

■ ■ ■

BITS 'N' PIECES: Lisa Kudrow's former manager is suing her for $50,000, claiming she failed to pay him commissions she owes him even though he has been fired. ... The Sarah Brightman, who sang the official theme at the opening of the Olympics, is the lady who was so brilliant in "Phantom of the Opera." ... And Mamie Gummer, whose name you will be seeing in upcoming shows, is Meryl Streep's daughter. ... AND as I write, all quiet on the Paris, Lindsay and Mary Kate front.

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CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY

(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I keep hearing that William Petersen is leaving "CSI." Is this true? -- Roland G. in Oregon

A: William Petersen, an original cast member who played Gil Grissom for nine seasons, is indeed leaving "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" in the middle of the upcoming 10th season—10 episodes into the season, to be exact. Don't get too sad, however, as he has agreed to return for occasional guest appearances and will remain one of the show's executive producers.

William Petersen

If there is any good news in his leaving, it's that a number of familiar characters will return in the episodes building up to his character's departure, including former colleague and flame Sara Sidle, played by Jorja Fox, as well as the Miniature Killer and sexy Lady Heather. As of this writing, talk has been that Laurence Fishburne and John Malkovich have been considered as replacements for William in the upcoming season.

■ ■ ■

Q: I heard that Jennifer Garner and Ben Affleck are close to divorce. Please tell me it isn't true -- they are such a cute couple, and their daughter, Violet, is simply adorable. -- Theresa C., via e-mail

A: All signs point to "still together." Their rep has repeatedly denied that the couple is on the verge of a break-up, and Victor Garber, Jen's former "Alias" co-star and good friend, confirmed this past month that Ben and Jen are expecting their second baby this winter.

■ ■ ■

Q: I just started watching "The Sopranos" and would like to know more about the actor who plays Furio. Has he been in other movies or television shows? -- Theresa G., Englewood, Fla.

A: Federico Castelluccio -- who played Tony Soprano's right-hand man, Furio Giunta, on the hit mafia series from 2000-2006 -- got his acting start on the now-defunct soap opera "Another World." But it was "The Sopranos" that gave Federico his big break. Since leaving the HBO series, he has co-starred many movies, including "A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints" with Robert Downey Jr., "El Cantante" with Marc Anthony and Jennifer Lopez. Look for him in the upcoming films "The Pink Panther 2" and "Thunder Doyle," which will reunite Federico with former "Sopranos" castmate Vincent Pastore, who played "Big Pussy."

However, Federico's first passion is painting, and he was one of the master painters involved with re-creating many museum Impressionist masterpieces for the 1999 Pierce Brosnan movie "The Thomas Crown Affair."

■ ■ ■

Q: I missed the last show of The CW's "Farmer Wants a Wife." Who did Matt choose? -- Ruth M., Fort Worth, Texas

A: Matt Neustadt, the aforementioned farmer from the title of the matchmaking reality show, is a 29-year-old from West Alton, Mo. In the final episode, he choose Brooke Ward, the 23-year-old marketing representative from Dallas, over finalist Christa Ackerman, the 21-year-old cocktail waitress from New York City.

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

'Suge' Knight arrested in Vegas drug, assault case

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Rap music mogul Marion "Suge" Knight was jailed Wednesday on assault and drug charges after he was accused of beating his girlfriend while brandishing a knife, police said.

Knight, 43, the founder of bankrupt Death Row Records in Los Angeles, was arrested about 6:40 a.m. on a busy street near the Las Vegas Strip. Police responding to a domestic violence call found Knight standing over his longtime girlfriend with the knife in his hand.

"He did not stab her," said Officer Jacinto Rivera, a department spokesman.

Police did not release the identity of the woman, who told officers she was Knight's girlfriend of three years.The woman was treated at a hospital for minor injuries, according to Rivera.

Knight was taken into custody without incident and booked into the Clark County jail on felony charges of assault with a deadly weapon and possession of a controlled substance, and misdemeanor charges of possession of dangerous drugs without a prescription and domestic violence.

Knight had the drugs Ecstasy and hydrocodone when he was arrested, police said.

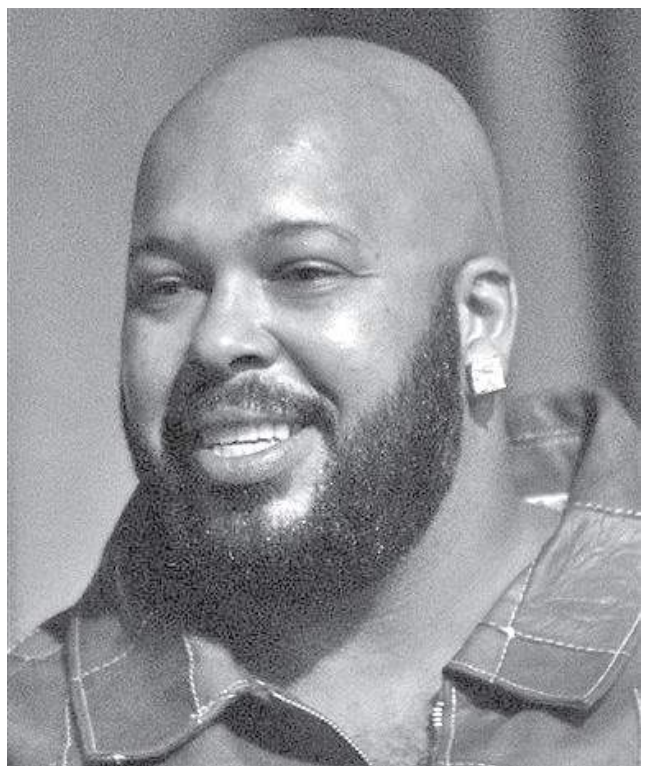
Lawyers David Chesnoff and Richard Schonfeld, who are representing Knight, said they wanted to gather information about the arrest and talk with Knight before commenting.

Rivera said Knight would be held at the jail for at least 12 hours on the domestic violence charge.

It was not immediately clear if Knight would appear in person when a judge was scheduled to review his arrest Thursday morning.

Police said Knight and the woman argued in the car while Knight was driving before he allegedly punched her in the head.

"The victim purposely grabbed the steering wheel and caused the vehicle to hit the curb," police said in a statement. Police said the woman tried to run away, but Knight caught her.



AP

In this June 24, 2003 file photo, rap producer Marion "Suge" Knight watches the 3rd annual BET Awards in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

Knight has a history of legal problems and was with Tupac Shakur when the rapper was gunned down in Las Vegas in 1996.

Knight was convicted of assault in 1992 and placed on probation, then jailed for five years in 1996 for violating that probation.

He was returned to jail in 2003 for again violating parole for punching a parking attendant at a Hollywood nightclub. He was released the next year.

Knight was wounded during a shooting at a party in a Miami nightclub in August 2005.

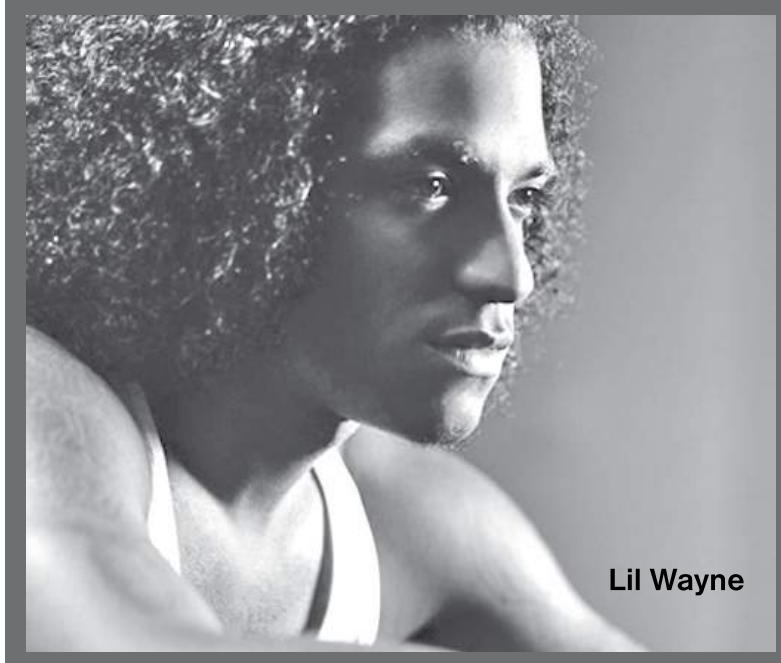
His former record company was auctioned in June for $24 million to New York-based Global Music Group Inc.

Daniel McCarthy, a lawyer handling a Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection filing for Knight and the record company, said Wednesday that the sale is pending.

Death Row Records was known for releasing seminal gangster rap albums by Tupac Shakur, Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg, and sold tens of millions of albums in the heyday of early 1990s rap.

In 2006, a federal judge ordered a bankruptcy trustee takeover of Death Row Records, saying the label had undergone gross mismanagement. Knight's decision to file for bankruptcy protection staved off a move by the court to appoint someone to take control of the record label and his assets.

TOP OF THE CHARTS



Lil Wayne

TOP 10 POP SINGLES

This Week Last Week

1. Rihanna No. 3 "Disturbia" (SRP/Def Jam)
2. Chris Brown No. 2 "Forever" (Jive)
3. Katy Perry No. 1 "I Kissed a Girl" (Capitol)
4. Rihanna No. 4 "Take a Bow" (SRP/Def Jam)
5. M.I.A. No. 16 "Paper Planes" (XL)
6. Coldplay No. 5 "Viva La Vida" (Capitol)
7. Kardinal Offishall feat. Akon No. 7 "Dangerous" (KonLive/Geffen)
8. Lil Wayne No. 6 "A Milli" (Cash Money)
9. Jonas Brothers No. 11 "Burnin' Up" (Hollywood)
10. Ne-Yo No. 10 "Closer" (Def Jam)

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. Soundtrack No. 3 "Mamma Mia!" (Decca)
2. Miley Cyrus No. 2 "Breakout" (Hollywood)
3. Sugarland No. 1 "Love On the Inside: Deluxe Fan Edition" (Mercury Nashville)
4. Kid Rock No. 4 "Rock N Roll Jesus" (Top Dog/Atlantic)
5. Lil Wayne No. 5 "Tha Carter III" (Cash Money/Universal Motown)
6. Coldplay No. 7 "Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends" (Capitol)
7. Lloyd new entry "Lessons In Love" (Young-Goldie/The Inc./Universal Motown)
8. Soundtrack No. 9 "Camp Rock" (Walt Disney)
9. Rihanna new entry "Good Girl Gone Bad" (SRP/Def Jam)
10. Heidi Newfield new entry "What Am I Waiting For" (Curb)

TOP 10 HOT COUNTRY SINGLES

1. Taylor Swift No. 5 "Should've Said No" (Big Machine)
2. Keith Urban No. 2 "You Look Good In My Shirt" (Capitol Nashville)
3. Sugarland No. 1 "All I Want to Do" (Mercury)
4. Keith Anderson No. 6 "I Still Miss You" (Columbia)
5. Brooks & Dunn No. 4 "Put a Girl In It" (Arista Nashville)
6. Alan Jackson No. 3 "Good Time" (Arista Nashville)
7. Brad Paisley No. 10 "Waitin' On a Woman" (Arista Nashville)
8. Jimmy Wayne No. 8 "Do You Believe Me Now" (Valory)
9. George Strait No. 11 "Troubadour" (MCA Nashville)
10. The Lost Trailers No. 12 "Holler Back" (BNA)

TOP TEN MOVIES

1. Tropic Thunder (R) Ben Stiller, Robert Downey Jr.
2. The Dark Knight (PG-13) Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
3. Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) animated
4. Mirrors (R) Amy Smart, Kiefer Sutherland
5. Pineapple Express (R) Seth Rogen, James Franco
6. The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (PG-13) Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
7. Mamma Mia! (PG-13) Amanda Seyfried, Stellan Skarsgard
8. The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG-13) Amber Tamblyn, Alexis Bledel
9. Step Brothers (R) Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly
10. Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG-13) Javier Bardem, Scarlett Johansson

TOP 10 VIDEO RENTALS

1. 21 (PG-13) Jim Sturgess (Sony Pictures)
2. Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay (R) John Cho (New Line)
3. The Bank Job (R) Jason Statham (Lionsgate)
4. Doomsday (R) Caryn Peterson (Universal)
5. Vantage Point (PG-13) Dennis Quaid (Sony Pictures)
6. Never Back Down (PG-13) Sean Faris (Summit)
7. College Road Trip (G) Martin Lawrence (Disney)
8. Step Up 2: The Streets (PG-13) Briana Evigan (Disney/Touchstone)
9. Drillbit Taylor (PG-13) Owen Wilson (Paramount)
10. Shutter (PG-13) Joshua Jackson (Fox)

TOP 10 DVD SALES

1. Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay (R) (New Line)
2. Stargate: Continuum (NR) (MGM)
3. 21 (PG-13) (Sony Pictures)
4. Never Back Down (PG-13) (Summit)
5. Doomsday (R) (Universal)
6. Lost Boys: The Tribe (R) (Warner)
7. Batman Begins (PG-13) (Warner)
8. Step Up 2: The Streets (PG-13) (Touchstone)
9. The Bank Job (R) (Lionsgate)
10. College Road Trip (G) (Walt Disney)

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Clothes-swapping party might not fit big gal

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm hosting what's called a Naked Ladies Party. It's where all the women come over with all the clothing, accessories, jewelry, etc. they no longer want. We strip down to our skivvies, try on each other's stuff, then vote on who should get to keep it. (Basically, we just swap items to get new ones.)

I have a very good friend I'd like to invite, but she is significantly larger than the rest of us and wouldn't fit into any of our clothes. She acts like she's not sensitive about it, but I don't want to embarrass her by inviting her.

She and I work together and some of the women from work are invited, so she will find out about it. I feel like no matter what I do, I'm going to hurt her feelings or put her in an embarrassing situation. What should I do?

IN A PICKLE IN LAKEWOOD, OHIO

DEAR IN A PICKLE: Talk to your friend about the party and let her know exactly what it's about. While she may not be comfortable stripping down to her skivvies and the clothing wouldn't be appropriate, she might be interested in the accessories and the female bonding. Let her decide.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter's 21-year-old boyfriend, "James," tries to make her jealous by complimenting me or making inappropriate comments about me to her. I have only recently been made aware of what he's doing because he has never directed his comments to me—only to my daughter.

"Monica" is a beautiful young woman. I am a 53-year-old mom, attractive for my age but nothing special. It is apparent James is playing some kind of mind game with her, and it has begun to have a negative impact on her relationship with me. I think my daughter needs to move on to a more mature guy. What do you suggest?

JUST A MOM IN GRAPEVINE, TEXAS

DEAR JUST A MOM: Either your daughter's boyfriend has formed a gigantic crush on you, or she's dating the most insensitive guy on the planet. Whatever is motivating him, the outlook is not good for her, and I hope she'll accept that the relationship is going nowhere positive and give that heel the boot.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was taught that a performance receives a standing ovation when it is truly spectacular. When you are especially moved or inspired, you show your appreciation by standing. Abby, every show I go to now receives a standing ovation. I don't always join in. I feel it should mean something, not just be expected at the end of every show.

I'm tired of getting the "evil eye" from people standing around me because I didn't feel an ovation was warranted. Don't get me wrong, I'm still generous with my applause and take into consideration all the aspects of the show. (For example, I wouldn't expect a play featuring 5-year-olds to be held to the same standard as a Broadway show.)

Am I wrong? Should I stand with everyone else, and am I confused about the meaning of standing ovations? Or should I remain seated?

RELUCTANT IN MADISON, WIS.

DEAR RELUCTANT: If you don't feel a performance merits a standing ovation, stay in your seat. Do not let the reaction of other audience members intimidate you. It's possible they may be related to someone in the show, or even be the producers.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Garth, Doherty make nice while filming new '90210'

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennie Garth and Shannen Doherty say they were nervous about reuniting for the new incarnation of "Beverly Hills, 90210."

The actresses feuded on and off the set of the 1990s cultural phenomenon, and Doherty left the series in 1994 following a rocky stretch during which she clashed with the cast and producers and showed up late for work.

Garth, 36, and Doherty, 37, hadn't spoken in years before filming their first scene together in the "90210" update, debuting Tuesday on the CW network. In this version, the drama centers on a new crop of West Beverly High School students.

"There had been so much buildup," Garth told Entertainment Weekly magazine, which features a joint interview with the actresses in its Sept. 5 issue. "Everyone was asking me before what it was going to be like. I was like, `I don't know. I haven't talked to her in 10 or 15 years.' I had that tension and I started to let it get to me. Is she going to be nice? Is it going to be a bad environment? But when I saw her everything was fine."

Doherty said "there were nerves going in," but she aimed to start fresh and move forward.

"I think when you're 18, your personalities conflict, then you meet up 10 or 15 years later, and the playing ground is totally different and you're fine," she said.

AP

Actress Jennie Garth poses on the press line at the premiere party for the new television series "90210" in Malibu, Calif. on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008.

Doherty said she has no regrets about leaving the first "90210," which ran from 1990 to 2000 on the Fox network.

"It let me find a little bit of peace and discover who I was as a person," she said. "Not the person who the press made me out to be because I'd had a few bad experiences in my personal life, and I was struggling to figure out a bad husband or a bad boyfriend and I was doing it under the spotlight, so I wasn't reacting well to any of it."

Doherty said she and Garth "never punched each other," despite a passage in former castmate Tori Spelling's memoir "sTORI Telling" that alleges the two got into a fistfight.

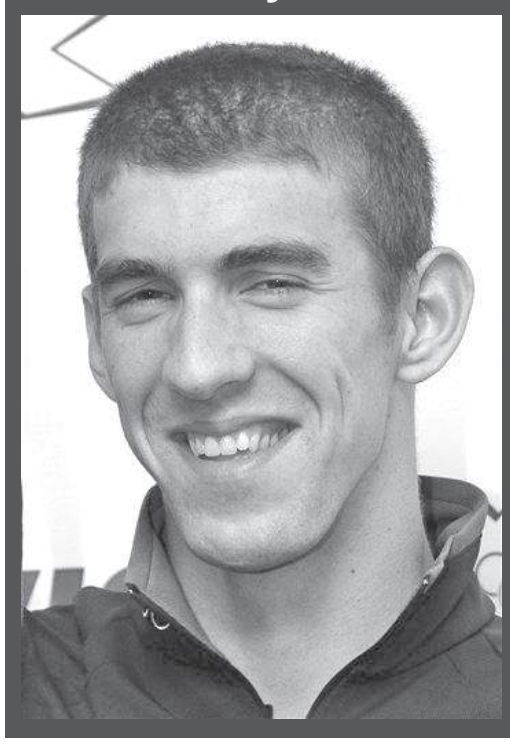
"I don't think we ever hit each other. ... Scratching? I'm not going to deny that," said Garth.

The actresses' characters have matured: Garth's Kelly Taylor is a single mom and guidance counselor at West Beverly High, while Doherty's Brenda Walsh returns in a four-episode stint as a successful actress who encourages Taylor to date a cute English teacher. She even offers to babysit Kelly's 4-year-old son.

"All those people who wrote the `I Hate Brenda' newsletter are going to get mad at me now, like `Why are you leaving your child with Brenda?" Garth said.

"Hopefully those people have grown up," Doherty replied, to which Garth added: "I doubt it."

Live comedy sink or swim: Phelps to open 'SNL'



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Butterfly, freestyle, relay—monologue? Michael Phelps is trading the pool for the "Saturday Night Live" stage.

The recording-breaking swimmer, who took home eight gold medals at the Bejing Olympics, will host the 34th season premiere of NBC's long-running late-night sketch-comedy series on Sept. 13. Joining the 23-year-old athlete as musical guest will be rapper Lil Wayne.

It will be the debut "SNL" appearances for both. The network will air seven new "SNL" episodes before November's presidential election. The Sept. 13th premiere will mark the beginning of four new "SNL" shows in a row. NBC will also air three prime-time episodes of "Saturday Night Live Weekend Update Thursday," a special half-hour "Weekend Update" edition of the show, beginning Oct. 9.

In this Aug. 24, 2008 file photo, U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps, winner of 8 gold medals at the Beijing Olympic, is shown at a press conference in London.

AP

Actors, advertisers extend commercials contract

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two actors unions and the U.S. advertising industry said Monday they agreed to extend a contract covering commercials on TV, radio, the Internet and other new media by six months through March.

The extension gives the Screen Actors Guild extra time to finished stalled talks with Hollywood studios over a contract covering prime-time TV shows and movies that expired in June. Actors continue to work under the terms of the old deal.

Both the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists held a six-month commercials strike in 2000 that drove work overseas.

The extension comes on top of a two-year extension agreed to in 2006.

At that time, the advertising industry and the unions commissioned Booz Allen Hamilton to study new compensation models for performers to deal with the shift of ads to the Internet and other new media. The study was completed early this year.

In March, SAG and AFTRA acrimoniously ended 27 years of joint negotiations with studios over movies and prime-time TV shows in a spat over jurisdiction and the makeup of the bargaining team.

SAG and AFTRA have yet to decide formally whether to jointly bargain on the commercials contract.

The ad industry is represented by a joint committee of the Association of National Advertisers and the American Association of Advertising Agencies.

AP

Mackenzie Phillips, of the 1970's sitcom "One Day at a Time, " appears on the the NBC "Today" television program in New York, when the cast was reunited Tuesday Feb. 26, 2008.

Phillips arrested at LA airport

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former teen star Mackenzie Phillips has been arrested on suspicion of possessing a controlled substance after she allegedly was found carrying drugs at Los Angeles International Airport.

Airport police Sgt. Jim Holcomb said the co-star of the old sitcom "One Day At a Time" was arrested Wednesday.

The 48-year-old Phillips was heading to New York when she failed to pass a security screening and a secondary search turned up a small amount of cocaine and heroin in her possession, he said.

Phillips is the daughter of John Phillips, the late leader of the singing group the Mamas and the Papas. She has struggled with drug addiction in the past and was fired from "One Day At a Time," which ran from 1975 to 1984, for drug-related causes.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

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AND THEY HATE ME
STOP THROWING CROUTONS AT ME!
DOINK!
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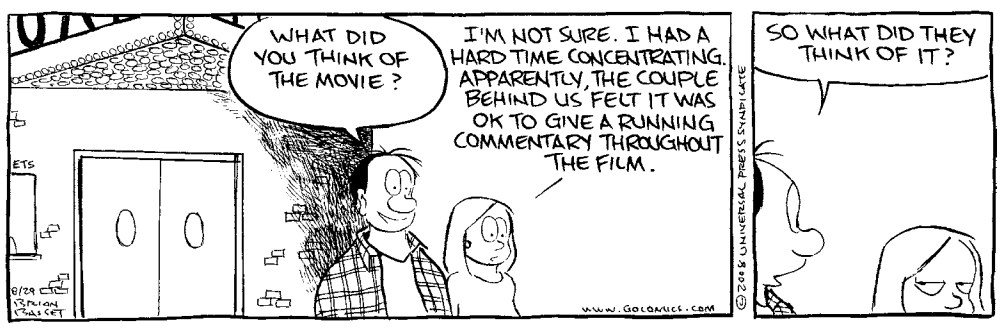
JIM DAVIS 8-29

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE MOVIE?
I'M NOT SURE. I HAD A HARD TIME CONCENTRATING. APPARENTLY, THE COUPLE BEHIND US FELT IT WAS OK TO GIVE A RUNNING COMMENTARY THROUGHOUT THE FILM.
SO WHAT DID THEY THINK OF IT?
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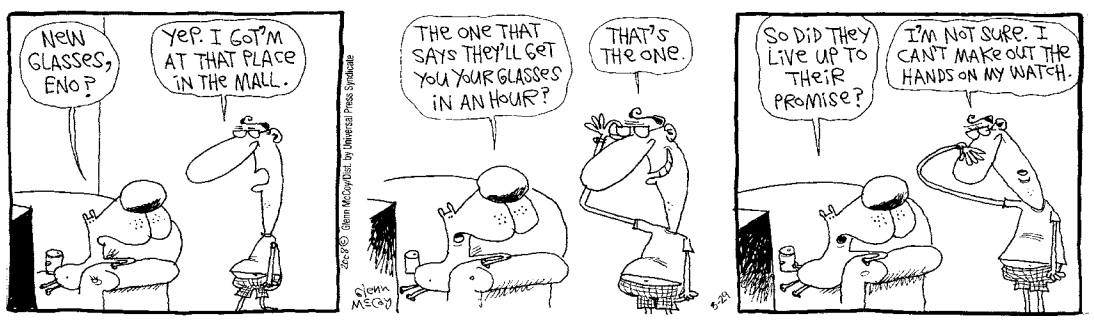
WWW.GOCOMICS.COM

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


NEW GLASSES, ENO?
YEP. I GOT'M AT THAT PLACE IN THE MALL.
THE ONE THAT SAYS THEY'LL GET YOU YOUR GLASSES IN AN HOUR?
THAT'S THE ONE.
SO DID THEY LIVE UP TO THEIR PROMISE?
I'M NOT SURE. I CAN'T MAKE OUT THE HANDS ON MY WATCH.
2008 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

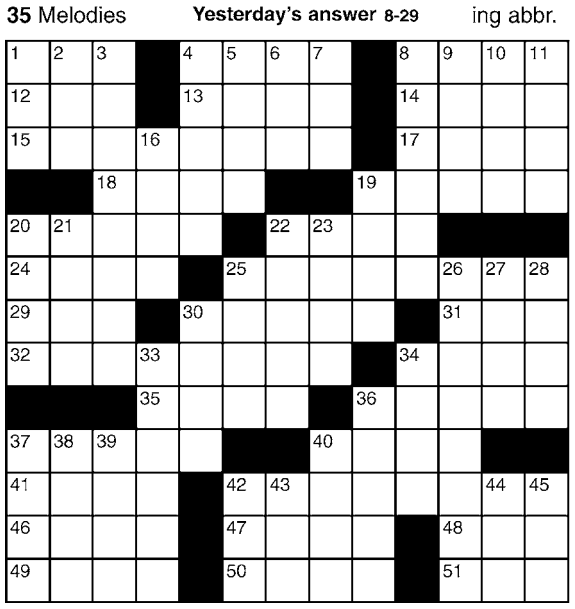
ACROSS
1 Journey segment
4 Bay at the moon
8 Disappear gradually
12 Past
13 — vera
14 Newspaper pg.
15 Overhead item in a TV studio
17 Second-hand
18 Trial recording
19 Sports venue
20 With cunning
22 A-number-1
24 Prompted
25 Bad news for commuters
29 Carte lead-in
30 Taco topping
31 High-arc shot
32 Toll road
34 Amorphous sci-fi villain
35 Melodies
36 Overthrows
37 In two places at once?
40 Shapely legs
41 Gloomy
42 Lightweight motorcycle
46 Aware of
47 Condo, e.g.
48 Feedbag tidbit
49 Pack away
50 Get a glimpse of
51 Big Apple letters

DOWN
1 Rocky Horror's home
2 Id counterpart
3 Big name in rubber
4 Tending to emote
5 Medley
6 Stir-fry skillet
7 "My Name Is Earl" star
8 July holiday
9 Basilica area
10 Paula of the Food Network
11 Icelandic tales
16 Pinochle tactic
19 On the briny
20 "Get lost!"
21 Humdinger
22 Abruptly refuses
23 Gaelic
25 Equitable
26 Mirage
27 Former surgeon general
28 Undergoes recession
30 Skewer
33 Prejudiced
34 Flop on stage
36 Spiteful
37 Big bothers
38 — l'Eveque cheese
39 Jam ingredient?
40 Clench
42 Outstanding
43 Office holders
44 Jay-el connector
45 List-ending abbr.

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	T	A	G		S	A	T		S	W	A	Y
P	A	R	R		P	H	I		H	I	R	E
A	L	E	E		R	A	N		E	P	P	S
S	C	A	M	P	I		Y	A	L	E		
				L	I	G	H	T	O	F	D	A	Y
P	L	A	I	N		A	I	L		O	W	E
L	I	M	N		J	I	M		C	U	L	T
O	R	B		S	I	T		T	U	T	S	I
D	A	R	K	N	I	G	H	T				
		O	N	Y	X		H	E	L	I	U	M
B	A	S	E		I	D	O		A	O	N	E
E	V	I	L		N	U	S		S	T	I	R
D	E	A	L		G	E	T		S	A	T	E

Yesterday's answer 8-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lauren Collins, 22; Jeff Licon, 23; Dante Basco, 33; Carla Gugino, 37

Happy Birthday: A change in vocation may seem appropriate but make sure you are making an upward, not a lateral move. A lesson learned in the past will help you out this year. Rely on your memory, experience and people you can trust. Prove your ability to use what you've acquired along the way and you will sway others to take a chance on you now. Your numbers are 11, 15, 26, 29, 33, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You need adventure in your life. Take a class or get involved in a hobby that excites you. It will help you change your attitude regarding other areas of your life and will initiate ideas for completing old projects. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't give in to a fast-talking, persuasive person trying to get you to buy into something you don't need or believe in. Put your heart and soul into activities and events that are conducive to bettering the lives of children, lovers and family who are special to you. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stick close to home and the people you can trust. An older relative or a youngster in your life may cause you grief. Do not give in to pressure. Do what's best for you and your family. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't be tempted by someone who is trying to push you in one direction. Trust in whoever has the most experience and refrain from arguing about your decision. You have the right to make up your own mind without interference. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Engage in an activity or event that will help you strive to be your best. The satisfaction you get will help you impress someone who has something to offer you professionally. New surroundings will promote personal change. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Something may be going on behind your back. Don't get all riled up; chances are a surprise is in the works. Give your home an update and make a donation of clothes and household goods for someone in need. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You can talk your way in or out of anything, so put your expertise to good use and fight for a cause you believe in. You will be able to drum up donations and volunteers. Sticking close to home will be emotionally and financially costly. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep things to yourself. The more mysterious you are about what you are working on, the easier it will be to execute. Someone may play an emotional mind game with you. Final touches will perfect what you are doing. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Use your position and your power to get what you want and when. Don't give in to bribery. Decide for yourself what's right and what's wrong for you. A change in status is looming. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You will experience problems while traveling, dealing with institutions or agencies and with a medical diagnosis, legal matters or financial payments. Keep things as straightforward as possible to avoid mix-ups and misunderstandings. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): It's important to get things out into the open today so you can clear the air. Someone who owes you something will come through for you. Get in touch with institutions that are holding information you require to move forward. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Give an added push to a job you are working on so you can feel free of stress over the weekend. You cannot let anyone tamper with your plans or your work. Too many hands cause things to go array. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You can make anything sound believable. You have a unique and savvy way of doing things. You are a good friend and partner.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8		5			9	
			3					5
7		6			2			
	2					6		
5				7				3
		9					5	
			6			4		8
2					7			
	6			3		9		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	2	1	7	3	5	4	6
1	5	4	6	8	9	2	7	3
7	6	3	5	2	4	9	1	8
2	8	1	3	5	7	4	6	9
4	7	6	9	1	2	3	8	5
5	3	9	4	6	8	7	2	1
6	1	7	2	9	5	8	3	4
3	2	5	8	4	1	6	9	7
9	4	8	7	3	6	1	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/28

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

UNDERSTANDING TINNITUS — Solution: 8 letters

S	E	S	U	A	C	O	N	S	T	A	N	T	B	B
A	(N)	C	T	W	H	I	S	T	L	I	N	G	L	A
S	(O)	N	O	I	T	A	R	T	N	E	C	N	O	C
I	(S)	H	N	M	R	H	Q	S	T	O	P	S	C	K
S	(E)	E	G	N	M	U	R	T	R	N	S	U	K	G
O	M	A	N	N	I	O	I	O	E	N	S	O	A	R
R	A	R	G	E	I	M	T	U	A	O	E	U	G	O
E	C	I	T	I	R	B	R	I	T	T	N	N	E	U
L	H	N	O	E	N	A	R	Y	O	E	D	I	S	N
C	I	G	T	I	L	G	W	U	N	N	U	T	U	D
S	N	N	R	E	L	A	X	A	T	I	O	N	O	O
O	I	N	O	I	T	A	S	N	E	S	L	O	I	C
T	S	N	O	I	T	A	T	I	R	R	I	C	X	T
S	T	N	O	I	T	C	A	R	T	S	I	D	N	O
O	C	C	U	P	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	G	A	R

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Aging, Anxious, Awareness, Background, Blockages, Causes, Commotion, Concentration, Constant, Continuous, Distraction, Disturbing, Doctor, Hearing, Intermittent, Irritation, Loudness, Machinist, Neural, Nose, Note, Occupational, Ostosclerosis, Quiet, Relaxation, Sensation, Stir, Stop, Throat, Treat, Whistling

Yesterday's Answer: Shanghai

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6688. **Sorry,** no online orders for this special offer.

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

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• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Saipan, MP
Telephone No. 235-8057

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR:	)	FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0489
VALARIN FAMIA MOSES, Minor Child by FELIX L. SAURES and REMINGKINA C. MOSES Petitioners.	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition to Appoint a Legal Guardian for the above-named minor child by Felix Saures and Remingkina Moses Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

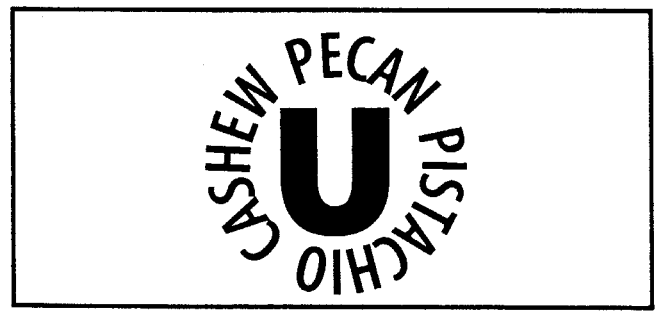
A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Kenneth Govendo on the 8th day of September, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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There is still hope for nonimmigrant statu
joins Micron
OPINION METER
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235- NEWS

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR NOTICE

SEPTEMBER 2008 OFFICE HOURS FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICE

During September 2008, the Administrative Hearing Office will be open from 8:30 am to 11 am and from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. The shortened hours during September are to allow staff time to update databases, prepare notices, prepare files, and attend to other administrative tasks for the coming calendar quarter.

POSTING OF NOTICES OF DEFICIENCY AND DENIAL

For actions by the Director of Labor after August 15, 2008 to declare a deficiency or denial with respect to an application, the posting of the notice of the Director's action will be on the Department's website, www.marianaslabor.net, and by physical posting in the public area of the Department of Labor offices, Afetna Square Building, second floor, San Antonio. The purpose of posting notices on the website is so that all concerned, employers and employees, have equal access to the necessary information. In the past, mail service sometimes did not reach all parties in a timely way.

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Jankovic guts out tough 2nd round win at US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Jelena Jankovic's leg cramped so badly, she couldn't take another step. Luckily for the No. 2 seed in the U.S. Open, the agony occurred during her post-match run on the treadmill. Anyone who watched could clearly see she left about everything she had out on the court.

Jankovic outlasted Sweden's Sofia Arvidsson 6-3, 6-7 (5), 7-5 Wednesday on yet another uncharacteristically mild August day in Flushing Meadows. She planned to take a 10-minute run on the treadmill but lasted only three when pain flared in the area of a knee injury sustained at Wimbledon.

"I couldn't go anymore," Jankovic said. "My leg was straight and I couldn't bend it. The muscle was in spasm and I had a lot of pain."

Treatment with ice and stretching and massaging loosened her leg enough for her to go back to the locker room to take a shower before she spoke to reporters in a much more comfortable setting.

Until then, it was Arvidsson who made her life difficult for the better part of three hours.

Jankovic bent over her racket, leaned against a back wall with a towel pressed to her face, and sprawled on her stomach in the middle of center court. Then she gutted her way into the third round.

The combination of not being in match condition following the injury and an array of hard forehands and well-placed drop shots by Arvidsson left Jankovic fighting to get her wind during the 2-hour, 44-minute match at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"That was a really tough one," said Jankovic, who has reached the fourth round in the first three Grand Slam events this year. "As you can see, I am completely out of breath. She really pushed me to the limit."

Eighth-seeded Andy Roddick, who has battled a shoulder injury this summer that led him to skip the Beijing Olympics, won his first match in straight sets. He beat Fabrice Santoro—the oldest man in the draw at 35—6-2, 6-2, 6-2.

AP

Jelena Jankovic of Serbia celebrates her , 6-3, 6-7 (5), 7-5 win over Sofia Arvidsson of Sweden at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008.

The match ended with Santoro thinking Roddick had tried to hit him with the ball. Roddick said that wasn't the case and he would try to seek out Santoro to clear the air.

The third night traditionally showcases the first men's match of the second round, but this year that was saved until Thursday. All women's matches Wednesday were second-round pairings.

Jankovic twice served for the win in the middle set against Arvidsson, yet couldn't put her away—even with a match point in reach. Jankovic held off Arvidsson in a back-and-forth third set when both had trouble holding serve.

When Arvidsson fired long on the final point, Jankovic had her third service break of the third set and eighth overall. There was suddenly a spring in her step as she waved and blew kisses to the crowd.

Even with the squandered chances, Jankovic still had an opportunity to advance without going the distance. She jumped to a 3-0 lead in the second set tiebreak before losing six straight points. Jankovic extended the set by winning two points on her serve, but fired wide as she approached the net—drawing an exuberant "Yeah" from Arvidsson.

Several times, Jankovic hunched over and leaned on her racket but didn't appear to be in distress. The Serb, ranked No. 1 earlier this year, lost in the fourth round at Wimbledon after injuring a knee in the previous match.

If anything ailed her other than fatigue Wednesday, it wasn't evident in the decisive third set when she raced to a 3-0 edge. Jankovic doubled over again when a fortuitous shot by Arvidsson crept over the net after it smacked the cord in the fourth game, but that appeared more out of exasperation than discomfort.

After a drop shot eluded her dive, Jankovic dropped to the court face down and stayed there for several moments. If anything, it gave her a brief rest.

"I was just tired and I couldn't get up," Jankovic said. "I was just trying to come back to normal position where I could just stand up and regroup again and play the next point."

The only worry she had at that point had to do with her bright yellow outfit that matched nicely with the deep blue court.

"I thought I was going to get my dress really dirty. That was my biggest concern," she said. "I would have loved to take a nap on the court because I was really exhausted. But you know, the rules are the rules. I had to keep going."

While Jankovic escaped an early exit, No. 8 seed Vera Zvonareva couldn't. Zvonareva was upended by Tatiana Perebiynis 6-3, 6-3 in the tournament's biggest upset yet.

No. 3 Svetlana Kuznetsova shook off an early break and rallied to a 7-6 (3), 6-1 victory over Sorana Cirstea. Fifth-seeded Elena Dementieva advanced over Pauline Parmentier 6-2, 6-1. No. 12 Marion Bartoli of France, No. 14 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus and No. 15 Patty Schnyder of Switzerland also won.

Merriman to play despite two torn knee ligaments

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The surgeon's knife can wait. Shawne Merriman is going to play football, two torn knee ligaments and all. A day after visiting a fourth doctor, the San Diego Chargers' star outside linebacker decided Wednesday to play this season rather than have surgery on his damaged left knee.

"To be as simple as possible, I just want to play football," Merriman said. "That's what it comes down to. I know what's on the table, I know what's on the line. I put a lot of work in this and I want to play."

Merriman said late last week that he has tears in both the posterior cruciate and lateral collateral ligaments in his left knee, which he hurt in a game at Tennessee in December. He spent several days seeking outside opinions. He returned Tuesday after seeing a doctor in Miami.

Merriman said all four doctors he saw said he needed surgery, but there "just wasn't a time frame on that. My knee still looks pretty good. The decision was left up to me to play. If you give a football player a decision to play, you know, I'm going to play."

With his nonstop energy and spasmodic sack dance, the player known as "Lights Out" has been the face of the Chargers' defense the past three seasons. He has 39 1/2 sacks in that span, more than any other NFL player, and has played in three straight Pro Bowls.

Star running back LaDainian Tomlinson, knocked out of last season's AFC championship game after aggravating a knee injury, was happy to hear of Merriman's decision.

"How do you tell a warrior to sit down? That's what he is, a warrior. he's trained for this. It's hard to tell a guy to sit down," Tomlinson said.

"Obviously it was a big relief for a lot of us. We all know what Shawne brings to this team, especially the defense," the running back added. "He's an impact player, a difference-maker. You just kept your fingers crossed that he was going to be able to play. But I think in the back of all our minds, knowing Shawne, we know what was in his heart and that he really wanted to play, and that any cost possible he was going to find a way to get out there on that field."

Jaguars' Harvey ends holdout, signs 5-year deal

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Defensive end Derrick Harvey ended a 33-day holdout Wednesday by signing a five-year, $23.8 million contract with the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Harvey was the last first-round draft pick to sign, a lengthy holdout that frustrated coach Jack Del Rio and left the former Florida standout behind in preparation for the regular season.

The eighth overall selection in April, Harvey was expected to bolster a pass rush that struggled to pressure quarterbacks last season. But he missed all of training camp and the first three preseason games.

It was unclear whether Harvey would play in the preseason finale Thursday night at Washington. He did travel with the team to Washington, D.C.

"This was a long and challenging process for the player and for the team," Jaguars owner Wayne Weaver said. "This was a good example of the problem Commissioner Goodell has cited with the lack of a rookie pay scale. We're all happy that Derrick can now focus on getting on the field, being a Jaguar and contributing to this team."

Harvey's deal included a little more than $17 million guaranteed and could pay him as much as $33.4 million with incentives and escalators.

Harvey had 20 1/2 career sacks with the Gators and was the defensive most valuable player of the 2007 BCS national title game against Ohio State. The Jaguars liked—and needed—Harvey so much that they traded up 18 spots to get him. They may not have expected him to be so expensive.

But linebacker Vernon Gholston, selected with the sixth pick by the New York Jets, signed a five-year deal worth $50 million, with $21 million guaranteed. And New Orleans gave the No. 7 pick, defensive tackle Sedrick Ellis, a five-year deal that reportedly included $19.5 million guaranteed.

Harvey's agent wanted a similar deal, but the Jaguars declined to give the rookie more guaranteed money than they gave quarterback David Garrard, who signed a six-year, $60 million extension that included $18 million guaranteed. It was the richest contract in franchise history.

"There were some unusual challenges and plenty of room for honest differences of opinion," said Paul Vance, the team's vice president of football operations.

Del Rio was the most vocal, ripping the escalating contracts of first-round draft picks.

"What's happened at the very top of the first round is ridiculous," Del Rio said last month. "When you're paying the guys who have never done anything more than star football players in this league that have played for years and established themselves at this level what they're capable of, it can be a little frustrating."

The Jaguars refused to budge from their final offer to Harvey, but they eventually gave in slightly by changing the deal's incentives and making them easier to achieve.

Now, after so many problems at the defensive end position, Jacksonville probably would prefer to see Harvey reach all of them.

James Wyche (Achilles' tendon) is out for the season. Jeremy Mincey (wrist) has missed the entire preseason. Starter Reggie Hayward is still recovering from a hamstring injury. And second-round pick Quentin Groves has looked every bit like a rookie in the last two preseason games.

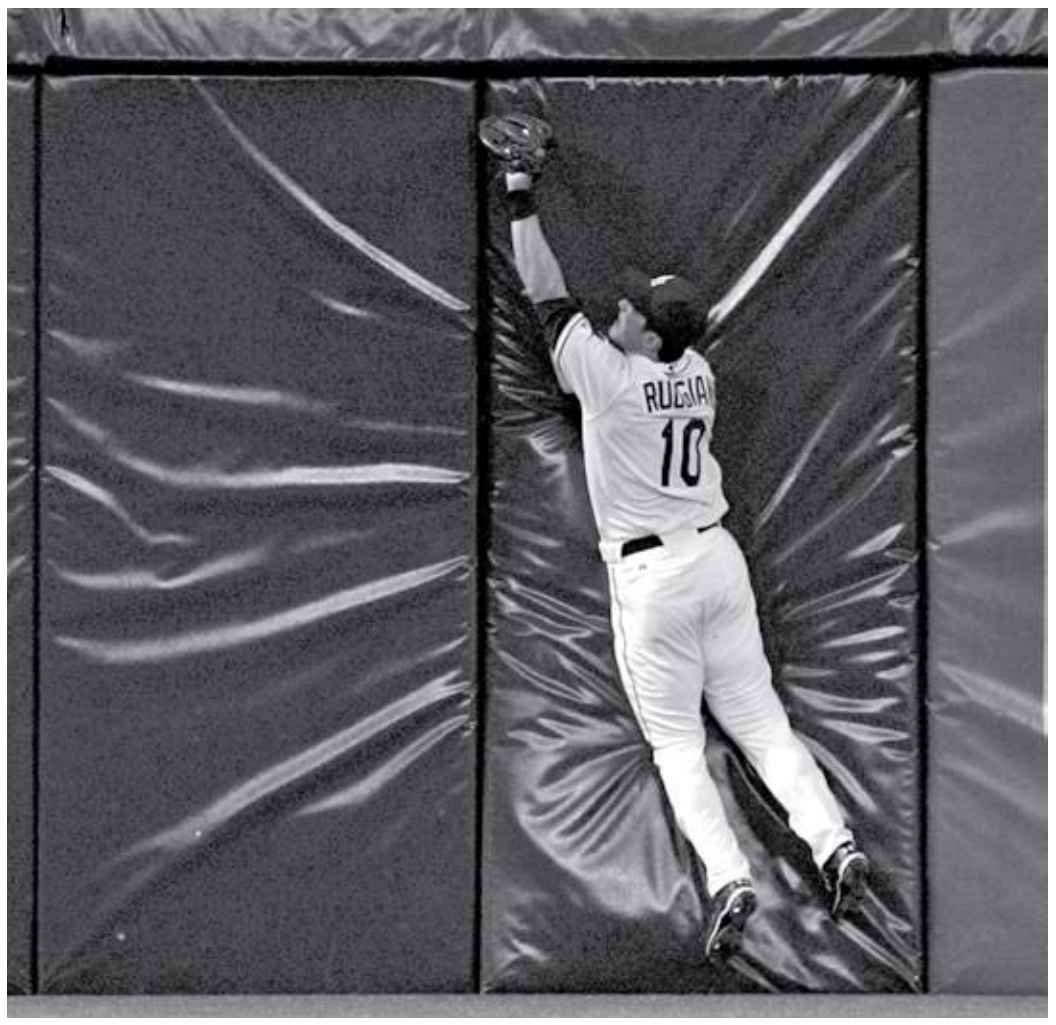
"We welcome Derrick and will work hard to get him up to speed as quickly as possible," Del Rio said. "I know that Derrick has been anxious to get here. It's good for him and also for us to have this done as we finish up the preseason and prepare to start the season."

Rays edge Blue Jays to maintain buffer in AL East race

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—The Tampa Bay Rays edged the Toronto Blue Jays 1-0 on Wednesday to maintain their lead in the American League East division.

Tampa Bay starter Matt Garza and two relievers combined on a six-hitter to keep the Rays 3-1/2 games ahead of Boston in the East.

Carlos Pena homered in the fourth inning for the only score of the game. It was his 27th homer of the season.



AP

Tampa Bay Rays' Justin Ruggiano crashes into the wall, robbing Toronto Blue Jays' Rod Barajas of an extra-base hit during the ninth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Orioles 11, White Sox 3

In Baltimore, the home team ended a five-game losing streak and cut Chicago's lead in the AL Central.

The White Sox advantage over Minnesota in the Central was sliced to one game

Brian Roberts had three RBIs for the Orioles. He gave Baltimore the lead for good with a two-run single in the second, then drove in a run with his AL-leading 46th double in the fourth.

The Orioles hadn't held an opponent under four runs in their previous 10 games.

Athletics 6, Angels 5

In Anaheim, California, Oakland beat Los Angeles to extend the Angels' streak of not winning series.

Los Angeles has not won any of its past five series, yet still holds a 15-game lead in the AL West.

Emil Brown homered and drove in three runs, while Rajai Davis had a career-high four hits for Oakland.

Oakland went to a 6-0 lead after two innings but conceded four runs in the fourth and clung on to take a series for the first time in its past 13 attempts.

Twins 6, Mariners 5

In Seattle, Minnesota snapped a four-game losing streak with a narrow win over Seattle.

The win moved the Twins within a game of the AL Central lead.

Denard Span drove in two runs and threw out the potential tying run at the plate in the bottom of the eighth.

The Twins scored three runs in the eighth to take a 6-4 lead, but consecutive Seattle doubles in the bottom of the inning made it 6-5.

Span cleanly fielded a ground ball to rightfield and and threw perfectly to the catcher, getting the pinch-runner by a few feet to preserve the Twins' advantage.

Red Sox 11, Yankees 3

In New York, Boston crushed New York to drive another nail into the coffin of the Yankees' playoff ambitions.

Jason Bay drove in four runs and Dustin Pedroia hit a grand slam as Boston easily beat its arch rival.

Pedroia's first career slam capped a seven-run eighth inning and New York dropped seven games behind Boston, which leads the AL wildcard race.

The Red Sox remained 3-1/2 games behind first-placed Tampa Bay in the AL East.

Bay hit a two-run double in the first and an RBI triple in the eighth.

Indians 9, Tigers 7

In Detroit, Cleveland beat Detroit to notch its 10th straight win.

Cleveland's team record is 13 consecutive wins, accomplished twice, the last time in 1951.

Kelly Shoppach homered and drove in three runs and Shin-Soo Choo hit a home run for the Indians.

The Tribe had surrendered a two-run lead and trailed 4-3 in the fourth when Shoppach put them ahead for good with his 17th homer, a two-run shot. Shoo made it 7-4 in the seventh with a two-run homer, his seventh of the year.

Detroit lost its fourth straight.

Rangers 3, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Texas' starting pitcher Matt Harrison won for the fourth time in August, beating Kansas City.

The Royals have lost 10 of their past 11 games, falling to a season-worst 21 games below .500.

Harrison, a 22-year-old rookie left-hander, went 4-1 in five August starts. He held the Royals to one earned run in 6-2/3 innings.

A pair of two-out doubles saw Texas draw level at 2-2 in the seventh inning, and they went ahead when the Royals' pitcher dropped a routine popup.

Mets 6, Phillies 3

In Kansas, Daniel Murphy hit a tiebreaking double after Carlos Delgado's second solo homer had tied the game in the eighth and the New York Mets beat the Philadelphia Phillies to reclaim first place in the National League East.

Ryan Howard hit a two-run homer and Jayson Werth homered for the Phillies, who fell a half-game behind the Mets in the division.

With two outs, Delgado tied it at 3 off Rudy Seanez (5-4). After Carlos Beltran reached on an infield single. Brad Lidge, who is 31-for-31 in save chances, came in and intentionally walked Ryan Church after Beltran stole second. Murphy doubled for a 4-3 lead. Brian Schneider followed with a bloop single that drove in two runs.

Cubs 2, Pirates 0

At Pittsburgh, Jason Marquis allowed five hits over seven innings and Chicago turned two well-placed bunts into two runs in the seventh inning.

It was the Cubs' third three-game sweep of Pittsburgh this season. Chicago won the season series 14-4, the most victories against Pittsburgh since going 15-7 in 1954.

Chicago, a major league-best 83-50, won its fifth straight to be 33 games over .500 for the first time since it was 98-56 at the end of the 1945 season.

The Pirates lost their season-high seventh straight.

Padres 5, Diamondbacks 4

At San Diego, Jody Gerut singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth and San Diego denied Randy Johnson his 295th career win.

Gerut, who had three hits, singled off Chad Qualls (2-8) and drove in Chase Headley from second to give the Padres a sweep of the three-game series against NL West-leading Arizona, which has lost four straight.

It was Johnson's second attempt to win No. 295. He went seven innings allowing three runs and five hits with nine strikeouts. He carried a 4-0 lead into the seventh inning.

Nationals 5, Dodgers 4

At Washington, Tim Redding outpitched Greg Maddux to send Los Angeles to a season-high sixth consecutive loss.

The Dodgers, who have scored 10 runs in the past six games, have lost eight straight road games for the first time since June 2005.

Redding (9-8) held the Dodgers in check for six innings, allowing three solo homers among eight hits, while Maddux (6-11) allowed four runs—two earned—and eight hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Marlins 4, Braves 1

At Atlanta, Florida's Josh Johnson threw a four-hitter for the first complete game of his career.

Hanley Ramirez had a two-run single and Dan Uggla hit his 28th homer for the Marlins.

Johnson (4-0) struck out eight and walked three.

Mike Hampton (2-2) allowed eight hits and three runs in eight innings, his longest outing since April 2005.

Astros 4, Reds 1

At Houston, Roy Oswalt limited Cincinnati to five hits in seven innings.

Hunter Pence and Ty Wigginton hit two-run homers to help Oswalt beat the Reds for the 22nd time in 23 decisions.

Oswalt (12-9) struck out three and allowed only four baserunners in his last five innings for Houston.

Cardinals 5, Brewers 3

At St. Louis, Ryan Ludwick was a triple short of a cycle and had two RBIs to lead St. Louis' comeback over Milwaukee from a three-run deficit.

Rebounding from a 12-0 rout Tuesday, the Cardinals scored four runs in the eighth and pulled within 3 1/2 games of Milwaukee for the NL wild-card lead.

The Brewers took the season series 10-5 and had won seven in a row against the Cardinals before Wednesday.

Ludwick hit his 32nd homer off Manny Parra in the sixth.

Albert Pujols doubled off David Riske (1-2) to start the eighth and Ludwick followed with an RBI double. Troy Glaus singled to tie the score and he later scored the go-ahead run when shortstop J.J. Hardy short-hopped a throw to the plate on pinch-hitter Aaron Miles' grounder against a drawn-in infield.

Giants 4, Rockies 1

At San Francisco, Bengie Molina and Pablo Sandoval hit back-to-back home runs in the seventh inning and San Francisco downed Colorado to avoid a three-game sweep.

After Molina's one-out homer off Livan Hernandez (1-3) tied the game at 1, Sandoval connected for his first major league homer to knock with a drive just inside the left-field foul pole. It was the second time this year San Francisco has hit consecutive homers. Molina and Aaron Rowand did it on May 23 at Florida.

Tim Lincecum (15-3) struck out 10 to boost his majors-leading total to 210. He lowered his ERA from 2.48 to 2.43, tied for best in the big leagues with Cleveland's Cliff Lee. Lincecum won three straight starts for the first time since April and won his fourth consecutive decision, improving to 13-2 in 22 starts following San Francisco losses.

Red Sox get Kotsay from Braves after Drew hits DL

NEW YORK (AP)—The Boston Red Sox acquired Mark Kotsay from Atlanta for a minor leaguer Wednesday, adding depth to their outfield one day after J.D. Drew went on the disabled list.

Kotsay hit .289 with six home runs and 37 RBIs in 88 games with the Braves. He arrived at Yankee Stadium on Wednesday before Boston's game against New York and was available off the bench.

"I figured once I cleared waivers and there wasn't really any action that I'd finish out the season in Atlanta," Kotsay told a pool reporter. "But this obviously is exciting to come to a club that's in the playoff race, and especially one like Boston that has the history of a great tradition."

Kotsay's only postseason experience came in 2006 with Oakland. The Red Sox lead the AL wild-card race and began the day 3 1/2 games behind first-place Tampa Bay in the AL East.

"It's very invigorating, no question," Kotsay said. "Unfortunately in Atlanta, things didn't go as well as we would have liked. I see Atlanta giving me this opportunity and we have to be thankful for that as well."

A strong defensive player, Kotsay has primarily played center field since 2001, when he joined the San Diego Padres. Before that, he was a regular in right field for Florida. He's also played 28 major league games at first base and could see time there with Boston.

Red Sox manager Terry Francona said he'd have to talk to Kotsay before determining his role.

"He's going to play. He's going to help us," Francona said. "The one thing I've heard from numerous people is, if he can walk he'll play."

The 32-year-old Kotsay, like Drew, has been hampered by back pain during his career.

"I know that I've gotten messages from people all over the league that said he's everybody's all-time favorite. I know he's a real professional. I know he's excited about coming here," Francona said. "He said he'll do anything we ask to try to help us win."

Drew, an All-Star right fielder, was placed on the 15-day disabled list Tuesday because of a lower back strain.

With Drew already ailing, Braves general manager Frank Wren said Boston GM Theo Epstein called him last weekend and it took about four days to complete the deal.

"J.D.'s injury necessitated this trade," Epstein said, then praised Kotsay. "He adds a lot to our club. He's a plus defensively in center and in right. He plays first base. He has great instincts. He's really a gamer. He's the type you want up in a big spot. ... He'll help this club on the field and in the clubhouse."

Kotsay was scratched from Atlanta's starting lineup Tuesday night, raising speculation that a trade was pending. He walked as a pinch hitter in the ninth inning.

"I'd have to say it's my weirdest night as a professional in the big leagues," Kotsay said after the game. "I've never been scratched for that type of reason."

The Braves got minor league outfielder Luis Sumoza in the deal. The 20-year-old Sumoza batted .301 in 51 games for Class A Lowell of the New York-Penn League this season.

Warriors G Ellis out 3 months with ankle sprain

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Golden State guard Monta Ellis will be sidelined for at least three months after severely spraining his ankle during an offseason workout, forcing the Warriors to start the season without the player expected to lead their revamped roster this fall.

Ellis, who got a six-year contract extension worth $66 million on July 24, sprained his ankle and tore a deltoid ligament while working out in his hometown of Jackson, Miss., last Thursday, said Chris Mullin, the Warriors' top basketball executive.

Ellis underwent surgery Wednesday in Birmingham, Ala., to repair the ligament, and returned home later in the day. Ellis' ankle will be immobilized for six weeks, followed by at least six weeks of off-court rehabilitation before the guard can return to basketball workouts.

"He's one of our main guys, but we don't think it's a season-ending injury," Mullin said. "The time frame, it fluctuates, but hopefully with his youth—and he's been pretty durable and resilient to injury—hopefully he does get back (soon).

"With the offseason moves we made, hopefully we can still play at a high level this year. To me, it's more something that you look at as a challenge, and you don't let it defeat you, you deal with it."

Ellis averaged 20.2 points, 5.0 rebounds and 3.4 assists last season, all career bests, while emerging as a dependable shooter for the league's highest-scoring club.

He will miss training camp and the Warriors' preseason schedule, which includes a trip to China, along with at least the first month of the regular season.

"Training camp was going to be an important part of his development," Mullin said. "That's going to be postponed, obviously, but he's got a lot of development on and off the court that he's going to continue to do. I've got a lot of confidence in him, and now his job is to get healthy."

Golden State's training camp opens Sept. 27.

Ellis, the winner of the NBA's most improved player award in 2006-07, is expected to play a major role this season for the Warriors after Baron Davis' abrupt departure for the Los Angeles Clippers as a free agent. Golden State showed its commitment with a huge contract extension for Ellis, who is likely to assume Davis' role as the point guard and catalyst of coach Don Nelson's uptempo offense.

In Ellis' absence, new point guard Marcus Williams is likely to get the first chance to run Nelson's show—although Mullin also will travel to Chicago on Thursday to take a look at former Clippers guard Shaun Livingston, the unrestricted free agent who hasn't played since injuring his left knee in a game on Feb. 26, 2007.

Golden State acquired Williams in a trade with New Jersey last month to be Ellis' backup. Williams, the former UConn star entering his third NBA campaign, averaged 5.9 points and 2.6 assists in 53 games with the Nets last season.

"Just in talking to Nellie today, (we're) talking about maybe spreading that ball around and getting scoring from different areas," Mullin said, mentioning more shots for Stephen Jackson, Al Harrington and newcomer Corey Maggette. "Marcus is more of a pass-first point guard. If at some point he thought he didn't get a chance (in New Jersey), he's going to get a chance now."

Guard Kelenna Azubuike also is likely to get more playing time with the Warriors, who missed the playoffs last season despite winning 48 games. Golden State shuffled much of its roster in the wake of Davis' departure, signing Maggette and forward Ronny Turiaf while losing forwards Mickael Pietrus and Matt Barnes.

Mullin wasn't certain whether Ellis hurt himself in a 5-on-5 scrimmage or a smaller pickup game. Although Mullin still is the same inveterate gym rat he was during his All-Star playing career, he shares most NBA executives' wariness about their players' offseason health in such risky workouts.

"I'm all for guys training and getting better," Mullin said. "Ideally, I'd like everybody here (in Oakland) all the time, but that's not realistic. I think one thing Monta has done each and every year is improve, and I do believe most improvement is made during the summer. That's when guys do get better, so I can't debate that."

NBA BRIEFS

Officials say Duckworth died of heart disease

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Oregon officials say an autopsy shows former Portland Trail Blazers center Kevin Duckworth died when his enlarged heart failed. Duckworth died Monday at 44 on the Oregon coast, where he was on a goodwill tour for the team. The Oregon State Police said Wednesday the autopsy was done by Dr. Larry Lewman, a state medical examiner who concluded that Duckworth died of "hypertrophic cardiomyopathy with congestive heart failure." The police statement says the heart disease had combined with high blood pressure to result in "marked enlargement of his heart which had been failing for some time."

Oklahoma City's new NBA team to get name next week

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Oklahoma City's new NBA franchise has finally set a date to announce its name and team colors. The team said Wednesday that it would unveil the name and colors simultaneously on its Web site and at a downtown event Sept. 3. Clay Bennett's ownership group has applied for trademarks for six names: Thunder, Energy, Wind, Marshalls, Barons and Bison. Oklahoma City television station KOCO has reported that the choice will be Thunder, but Bennett has refused to comment on what the name will be. The former Seattle SuperSonics announced on July 2 that they would be moving to Oklahoma City.

Wayman Tisdale has part of leg amputated due to cancer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Former NBA player Wayman Tisdale had part of his right leg amputated Monday because of bone cancer.

Tisdale, 44, revealed on his Web site that the surgery was scheduled for Monday. His wife, Regina, told The Associated Press on Tuesday night the surgery had taken place as planned.

"Everything went well," she said.

Tisdale, a 6-foot-9 Tulsa native who played for Oklahoma before spending 12 seasons in the NBA with the Indiana Pacers, Sacramento Kings and Phoenix Suns, first learned he had cancerous cyst below his right knee after he broke his leg in a fall at his home in Los Angeles on Feb. 8, 2007.

Tisdale, now an award-winning jazz musician, under went treatment and later had knee replacement surgery and resumed touring. Tisdale was still undergoing chemotherapy when he told the AP in June that "I feel better than ever. I'm excited. I've got a whole new look on life. I look at life on a whole 'nother radar."

Tisdale told the AP that his latest album, "Rebound," was inspired by his ongoing fight against the cancer.

On his Web site, Tisdale said removing a portion of the leg would be the best way to ensure that the cancer would not return.

"This may sound drastic, but I have put it in God's hands and now have peace, knowing that this is the best way to put this disease in check," he said. "I have complete faith that with the Lord's blessings this surgery will eliminate the cancer from my body and I'll soon be back on the road doing what I do best."

Tisdale said he planned to resume touring in the fall and that he would attend an annual cruise that he hosts.

According to statistics from the National Cancer Institute, about 63 percent of people diagnosed with bone cancer live at least 10 more years.

In 1983, Tisdale became the first freshman to make The Associated Press' first-team All-America list.

Tisdale was also an All-American in 1984 and 1985. He was the Big Eight Conference's player of the year in each of his three seasons with the Sooners and still holds Oklahoma's single-game, season and career scoring records. He played on the U.S. team that won the gold medal in the 1984 Olympic Games.

He went on to average 15.3 points per game during his pro career.

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Sources: De La Hoya wraps up deal for final fight

By GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER

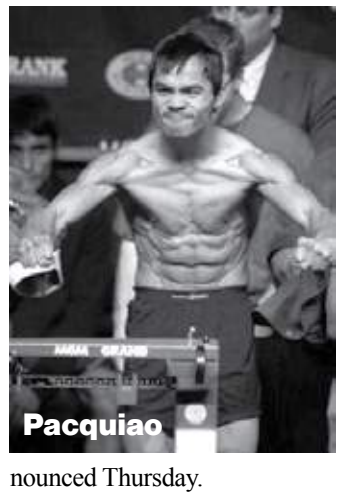
Oscar De La Hoya has nearly wrapped up a deal to finish his boxing career Dec. 6 against Filipino star Manny Pacquiao, two people with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The people, who spoke on condition of anonymity because any deal won't be announced until Thursday, said De La Hoya's long-stalled talks with Pacquiao recently revived when the sides found an acceptable way to split the possible $100 million in revenue from what's certain to be boxing's most lucrative fight since De La Hoya's split-decision loss to Floyd Mayweather Jr. last year.

Barring any last-minute changes of heart in a sometimes contentious negotiation, the fight will bring together boxing's most bankable star and arguably its most talented fighter at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. The deal was first reported by ESPN.com.

It hasn't been an easy match to make. Both boxers must make physical sacrifices for the 147-pound bout, with De La Hoya dropping down to welterweight for the first time in nearly eight years while Pacquiao bulks up to the heaviest weight of his career by far.

Dela Hoya


Pacquiao

The fighters' camps also argued over the split of the purse, with De La Hoya angling for 70 percent while Pacquiao pursued a 40 percent cut. The resolution to this impasse wasn't immediately clear, but should be announced Thursday.

De La Hoya (39-5-0, 30 KOs), the six-division champion and Olympic gold medalist, repeatedly has said he won't fight again after this year. After a proposed rematch with Mayweather in September was scuttled by Mayweather's retirement, De La Hoya has struggled to find a suitable opponent for his final bout before turning his full attention to his burgeoning promotions company and other business interests.

De La Hoya now thinks he has his man in Pacquiao (47-3-2, 35 KOs), the five-division champion widely considered the world's best pound-for-pound fighter. Pacquiao hasn't fought since stopping David Diaz in late June to claim the WBC lightweight title in his first fight at 135 pounds.

Pacquiao will have to move up to welterweight to fight the 5-foot-10 De La Hoya, a surprising weight surge for a 5-foot-6 fighter who began his career at 106 pounds.

Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's longtime trainer, has said his fighter won't have trouble maintaining his peerless hand speed at that weight, since Pacquiao routinely puts on 10 pounds or more in the 24 hours between weighing in for his bouts and actually stepping in the ring.

De La Hoya beat Steve Forbes by unanimous decision in his most recent fight, but has won just three of his six bouts over the past five years. He considered Miguel Cotto and Sergio Mora for his farewell fight, but realized the most lucrative challenge would be Pacquiao, the relentless Filipino hero who has won eight straight fights since early 2005.

10 GRADUATE

From Page 44

Volleyball Team which played in last year's Pacific Games in Samoa, while Shepherd came all the way from Guam to get certified. Shephered is the athletics director of St. John School in Tumon.

Peterka is the president of the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association, which applied for the inclusion of the CNMI under FIVB's Volleyball Cooperation Program.

The program conducts coaching seminars to various volleyball federations outside Europe. The CNMI was the sixth island-nation in the Pacific which benefited from the program this year. Papua New Guinea will be FIVB's last stop in the Pacific.

The Level I Coaching Course here ran from Aug. 20 to 27 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium from 3pm to 9pm.

"Our course included the fundamentals of both playing and teaching indoor volleyball. The essentials of the playing the game are serving, receiving (or digging), setting, spiking and blocking. We learned how to teach these essentials by using a variety of drills for beginners to juniors to advanced players. We also covered team tactics and strategies. Additionally, we covered subjects such as conditioning and a little bit about mental preparations, team cooperation, etc.," Peterka said.

Quinn said through the course, they learned how to make volleyball more appealing to the youth.

"I learned to make the sport fun for the youth. We worked on beginner drills and games which will create interest for kids thinking about playing," said Quinn, who spent more time in beach volleyball, but is now excited in developing his coaching skills in indoor volleyball.

Quinn and Peterka had praises to Santamaria for sharing his deep knowledge about the sport.

"Mr. Santamaria was very good in getting to know each participant individually and provide individual attention and guidance. Several of us have played volleyball for years, but collectively, we agreed that there is a Santamaria-magic that has improved each of us both in our coaching abilities and in our own games," Peterka said.

Santamaria said the CNMI can apply for other courses, such as refereeing, under FIVB's program, but he hopes that when the world governing body in volleyball returns here, there will be more participants this time.

The coaching course started with 17 participants. NMIVA sent 65 invitations and received inquiries from about 30 interested participants.

"NMIVA did its best to make this course available for anyone and everyone in the CNMI. We also reached out to Guam. It was a challenge to organize and re-organize the dates and schedules with FIVB to receive this program. However, commitment dwindled just days prior to the course," Peterka said.

The NMIVA president is hoping CNMI players/coaches will take advantage of future FIVB courses.

"FIVB offers several other courses that we can apply for annually. NMIVA is willing to make applications for these programs. They include refereeing, teachers, and players courses. Courses require a minimum of 15 persons up to a maximum of 30. If we struggle to meet the minimum number of participants, FIVB will not come," she added.

Peterka thanked participants of the weeklong course, McDonald for securing the venue of the event, and students under the Safe Heaven Program.

DCCA

From Page 44

ing four trips from the 15-foot line and receiving possession. Taj Van Buren went 2-for-4 from the foul line, and after DCCA and DOC traded misses in the ensuing plays, Connie Camacho made both her free throws to seal the win.

Van Buren and Elias Rangamar topscored for DCCA with 21 points apiece, while Romeo Iginoef chipped in 13.

Fifteen minutes after the DCCA-DOC match ended, DCCA returned to the court to play Legislature.

The Legislature-DCCA game was scheduled for Aug. 14, but it too was suspended, due to a power outage.

Legislature was leading by a deuce, 42-40, at halftime when the game was cancelled.

When the game resumed and ended, DCCA was on the winning side, escaping with a 79-73 triumph.

After leading at halftime, the Lawmakers hung on to the driver's seat at the end of the third period, 60-57, as the father-and-son tandem of Ray and Ernest Duenas, and Joel Punzalan hit their mark in that canto. Ray and Ernest combined for 11 markers in the third, while Punzalan drilled two triples.

But the Legislature lost steam in the final canto with Ray and Ernest limited to a field goal and Punzalan scoring only five points. The Lawmakers were held to 13 points in the fourth period.

DCCA had more gas left on its tank despite playing more than 20 minutes in the first game.

Van Buren, Iginoef, and Rangamar provided the needed points for DCCA to nail a come-from-behind win. Van Buren connected on two triples and had a total of eight points in the fourth canto, while Rangamar and Iginoef combined for 12 markers.

First Game

DCCA 89 – Van Buren 21, Rangamar 21, Iginoef 13, C. Camacho 8, Dela Cruz 7, P. Camacho 7, Rogolifoi 6, Benavente 4, Tenorio 2.

DOC 83 – Iguel 23, Quitugua 18, Blas 14, Itibus 11, Mendiola 7, Mendez 5, Joab 4, Santos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-18, 50-37, 74-53, 89-83.

Referee: Arnold Mesa.

Second Game

DCCA 79 – Rangamar 24, Van Buren 23, Benavente 12, Iginoef 9, C. Camacho 6.

Legislature 73 – R. Duenas 21, Punzalan 17, E. Duenas 10, Leon Guerrero 8, Guinto 7, Bermudes 4, Apatang 4 Cabrera 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-26, 40-42, 57-60, 79-73

Referees: Dado Vistal and Michael White.

US

From Page 44

ecstatic!"—isn't expected to return but after joking about bringing all the players back, Colangelo said five or six have said they want to return.

"We have plenty of time to sort through it, but they need some time off," said Colangelo. "They really do."

"Starting with me," Anthony said. "I've been doing this for four years."

With players making three-year commitments, playing hard and carrying themselves well, this team raised the bar for its successors, or picked the bar up out of the dirt where it had been rolling around.

"I think there's only one Dream Team, in my opinion," said Spain's Pau Gasol, who was 12 in 1992. "That Dream Team was something special, something unique.

"There's teams that could be close to it but not like that one. That team changed a lot of things in basketball and made a lot of young players want to play basketball and want to dedicate themselves to the sport.

"I think this team is really very good and played at a very, very high level all tournament and they're close to that team, but now I think there's nothing like that."

Gasol scored 21 points as he and his teammates traded baskets with the U.S. and stayed right with the Americans for most of Sunday afternoon.

With 8:13 left, Rudy Fernandez's three-pointer cut it to 93-91, for the first time raising the possibility that there was a choke factor with the U.S. players, who finally might be feeling the weight of all their expectations.

It just didn't raise it for long.

Bryant then made one of his improbable 10-foot runners while moving laterally. The next time down, on a fast break, he found Dwyane Wade, who made a three-pointer.

Spain kept chasing, but the Americans weren't to be caught on this day or in this Olympiad.

Leaving advertising slogans out of it, it was a remarkable effort. Colangelo and Krzyzewski built a belief in their goal that went beyond zeal into incredulity when the players started saying a gold medal was more important than an NBA title, which none had mentioned before.

Before every game, LeBron James would give NBC commentator Doug Collins a fist bump. After this game, the whole team came over for fist bumps.

Collins, who would have been the hero at Munich, Germany, in 1972 in the controversial game the Soviet Union won, or was given, had been one of the many speakers brought in to talk to this team and had described the heartbreak he felt.

"He gave us such an emotional speech, and it moved us all," Bryant said. "We all suffered the pain that he felt when he lost and we wanted to share this with him."

So 36 years later, this team did what it could to redeem Doug Collins too. That's what you call getting the job done.

RAGING

From Page 44

Alvarez, meanwhile, said details of Trench Warz IX—Trench Tech's final event of 2008—will be forthcoming in the months ahead. He said there is a possibility that now mainland-based Frank "The Crank" Camacho will take part in the MMA event.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	80	51	.611	–
Boston	77	55	.583	3 1/2
New York	70	62	.530	10 1/2
Toronto	68	64	.515	12 1/2
Baltimore	63	70	.474	18

Central Division

Chicago	76	57	.571	–
Minnesota	75	58	.564	1
Cleveland	65	67	.492	10 1/2
Detroit	64	69	.481	12
Kansas City	56	77	.421	20

West Division

Los Angeles	80	52	.606	–
Texas	66	68	.493	15
Oakland	61	72	.459	19 1/2
Seattle	50	83	.376	30 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	74	60	.552	–
Philadelphia	73	60	.549	1/2
Florida	68	65	.511	5 1/2
Atlanta	58	75	.436	15 1/2
Washington	48	85	.361	25 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	83	50	.624	–
Milwaukee	77	56	.579	6
St. Louis	74	60	.552	9 1/2
Houston	67	66	.504	16
Cincinnati	58	75	.436	25
Pittsburgh	57	76	.429	26

West Division

Arizona	68	65	.511	–
Los Angeles	65	68	.489	3
Colorado	63	72	.467	6
San Francisco	59	74	.444	9
San Diego	51	82	.383	17

Yesterday's Games

Minnesota 6, Seattle 5
Boston 11, N.Y. Yankees 3
Cleveland 9, Detroit 7
Baltimore 11, Chicago White Sox 3
Tampa Bay 1, Toronto 0
Texas 3, Kansas City 2
Oakland 6, L.A. Angels 5
Chicago Cubs 2, Pittsburgh 0
San Diego 5, Arizona 4
N.Y. Mets 6, Philadelphia 3
Florida 4, Atlanta 1
Washington 5, L.A. Dodgers 4
Houston 4, Cincinnati 1
St. Louis 5, Milwaukee 3
San Francisco 4, Colorado 1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Restaurants invited as 'guest teams'

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Organizers of the 3rd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League are reaching out to teams of the restaurant league, inviting them to serve as guest squads for its 2008-2009 season.

In a telephone interview yesterday, HANMI Cup coordinator Lito "William" Espino said the three-year league is welcome to the idea of having one, two, or three teams from the Inter-Restaurant Basketball League see action in the competition.

"Any number of teams from the restaurant league is welcome but they will only be playing as guest teams. This makes sense because the HANMI Cup can have as much as eight teams for the 2008-2009 season and the more the merrier," he said.

Ronnie Lopez of 2006 restaurant league runner-up Abyss Bar and Grill attended the HANMI Cup organizational meeting last Tuesday and Espino said other restaurants and fastfood outlets are invited in future organizational meetings of the group.

Earlier Espino said the HANMI Cup is eyeing a late October start for the caging competition.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Pedro Iguel of Hafadai Beach Hotel goes up for a layup against Marianas Resort and Spa in this file photo from the 2006 Inter-Hotel Basketball League HANMI Cup.

So far, a total of seven teams have signified their interest in joining the competition led by defending champion Fiesta Resort and Spa-Saipan Grand Hotel, last year's runner-up PIC, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel, and returning Palms Resort Saipan, the former Hotel Nikko Saipan. Inaugural champion Aqua Resort Club decided not to enter a team this year.

Like the previous two editions of the HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League, the 2008-2009 season will be organized by the Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, where Espino is president.

For more information about the 3rd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League, call Espino at 323-1135.

The combined Fiesta Resort and Spa and Saipan Grand Hotel team took home the 2007-2008 HANMI Cup championship

Led by the high-scoring duo of Ryan Sanciangco and Elmer Esdrelon, the Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. quintet defeated PIC in the winner-take-all finals last April, 87-72.

The game saw Fiesta-Grand draw 57 points from Sanciango and Esdrelon, while PIC was led by the 18 markers of Derrick Tudela.

Weekly 8-ball returns at Top Pool Bar

While its $1,000 big money tournament last Saturday had a lukewarm response, Top Pool Bar is hoping to have more success with the return of its weekly 8-ball competition starting this Aug. 30 at the Garapan watering hole and sports bar.

Manager and owner Zheng Jian Qing said unlike the $1,000 Professional 8-Ball Tournament, entry fee for the weekly competition is a more modest $15 per player.

However, like the big money tournament, the still unnamed 8-ball competition every Saturday will continue to be off-limits to himself as well as fellow pool sharks Roger Espiritu and Jerry Soriano.

Zheng said he is taking himself out of the tournament and will not extend invitations to Espiritu and Soriano to allow other up-and-coming cue artists to take the spotlight in the weekly 8-ball event.

He added that it also makes sense that they be excluded from the competition, as their skill and experience tend to scare away the island's other pool aficionados.

With the $15 entry fee, the top purse for the tournament is expected to be $110, provided all 16 slots are filled. Correspondingly, Top Pool Bar will award $80 and $50 for second and third placers, respectively.

Like previous competitions at Top Pool Bar, players can warm up and practice for free before the 8pm start of the 8-ball tournament.

For more information on the Top Pool Bar's Saturday 8-ball tournament, call Zheng at 287-7676 or check out the competition's website at www.saipanero.com/bars/toppoolbar.

Top Pool Bar, located along Hotel Street Garapan a stone's throw away from the Paseo de Marianas, is as spacious as it is modern and boasts of two 9-1/2-by-5-foot tables usually found in professional tournaments abroad. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Islanders keep lead in Budweiser Open 8-ball

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Islanders Rent a Car recorded another sweep to remain on top of the team standings in the Agingan Division of the 2008 Budweiser Open 8-ball League after Tuesday night's games.

The Islanders, who blanked Coral Reef Shark Attack in their debut in the league last week, posted a similar 4-0 triumph over USSP Wat-Ever in Week 2 to keep their record clean at 8-0 in the Saipan Billiards Association-run league.

Notching the wins for the Islanders were Ronnie Ringor, Don Antonio, Jomer Enriquez, and Eric Casip.

The PTI Voyagers also nailed a 4-0 victory against Shark Attack in Week 2, to improve their slate to 7-1, and remain in second spot.

The Voyagers, who are composed of Jojo Talibong, Amor Zapata, Luis Fajardo, Rolly Villanueva, and Ryann Odicta, won their first match this season, stunning perennial champion the SaipanCell Hustlers, 3-1.

MARK RABAGO
Luis Fajardo, seen here in a file photo, and the rest of the PTI Voyagers nailed a 4-0 victory against Shark Attack in Week 2 of the 2008 Budweiser Open 8-ball League Tuesday night.

The Hustlers recovered from their Week 1 booboo when they defeated Godfather's Rock Steady, 3-1. The Hustlers now have a 4-4 record, moving up from fifth place to solo third. Helping bring back the Hustlers in the win column were Robert Sanciangco, Senen Pangilinan, Joey Lucido, Jerry Soriano, and Rowel Mariano.

Rock Steady, which placed third after the opening of the competition, dropped to fourth with a 3-5 record. Rock Steady, which is composed of Pat Camacho, Bill Pangelinan, Keiji Tekeda, Gary Pangelinan, and Sam Babauta, split its games with USSP Wat-Ever.

USSP Wat-Ever also plummeted in the team standings, as it is now ranked fifth among six teams with its 2-6 slate.

Shark Attack is the lone team in the league which has yet to win a single game, holding a 0-8 record.

In the Obyan Division, two teams are tied for the lead with Primo's Hoe Boys and D'Pirates Huwa sporting identical 7-1 records after two weeks of competition.

The Home Boys and Huwa swept Week 1, and won anew in Week 2, downing the Perfect Spotters and Coral Reef Barracuda in similar scores, 3-1.

The VFW Warriors also cruised to a 3-1 victory in Week 2, beating USS Fotten Palau to move up from fourth to solo second place with their 5-3 mark.

Coral Reef Barracuda is in fourth place with its 3-5 slate, while the Perfect Spotters and USSP Fotten Palau are at the bottom of the team standings with identical 1-7 records.

NMIFA to conclude fall co-ed league Sunday

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will be wrapping up the 2008 Fall Co-Ed Soccer League this Sunday with a whole day schedule of games at the Commonwealth Ports Authority Field.

The league organized by CNMI Men's National team member Angelo Villagomez started in June with about 100 players divided into six teams, namely Captain Morgan's, Deaniacs, Greg and Mel's Friends, Gil Fever, Devil's Advocates, and the Sureshanks.

Several members of the CNMI Men's and Women's National squads, and their coach, Nick Swaim are playing in the league, but they are there only to provide direction to new players.

The league is more focused on newcomers and incorporates fun than competition in each game to encourage more players to join the sport.

"Referees and team captains repeatedly emphasized the 'fun' aspect of the league, reminding players who got overzealous to tone down their play to a level that allowed for all to enjoy the game safely," said Rio Sawmill, one of the organizers of the season-ending tournament this weekend.

"We thank Angelo Villagomez for spearheading the league and the members of the CNMI National teams for spending time with new players and sharing their expertise," he added.

MARK RABAGO
The Commonwealth Ports Authority Field will be a beehive of activity this Sunday as the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association wraps up its 2008 Fall Co-Ed Soccer League.

Records from the past games were not kept to highlight the fun part of league, but come this Sunday's tournament, teams will be battling for bragging rights in the preliminary games in the morning and in the championship round in the afternoon.

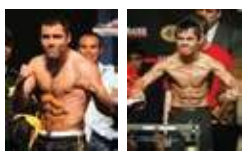
The first preliminary game of the day will have the Sureshanks colliding with Captain Morgan's at 8am. At 9pm, Greg and Mel's Friends will duel the Devil's Advocates; Captain Morgan's will face Gil Fever at 10am; the Devil's Advocates will challenge the Deanics at 11am; the Surshanks will square off with Gil Fever at 12pm; and Greg and Mel's Friends will meet the Deanics at 1pm.

The top two teams after the preliminaries will battle for the championship at 4pm. The consolation match between the third and fourth place teams is set for 3pm.

Participants and their families are expected to enjoy the season-ending games this Sunday, as organizers prepared an all-day BBQ party for the event.

"The league will provide a tent for cover, hotdogs, hamburgers, buns, and condiments for grilling. We are hoping that players, their families and friends will treat it like a potluck and bring side dishes to share with each other. We will also have water and some sodas, but we need people to bring more coolers and ice. We also want to encourage anyone who enjoys playing soccer to join us," Sawmill said.

NMIFA may open a tournament next month and interested players who will attend this weekend's event will have a chance to hook up with teams.



Sources: De La Hoya wraps up deal for final fight

Oscar De La Hoya has nearly wrapped up a deal to finish his boxing career Dec. 6 against Filipino star Manny Pacquiao, two people with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Jankovic guts out tough 2nd round win at US Open

Jelena Jankovic's leg cramped so badly, she couldn't take another step. Luckily for the No. 2 seed in the U.S. Open, the agony occurred during her post-match run on the treadmill.

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10 graduate from FIVB Level I coaching

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ten completed the first Federation Internationale de Volleyball Level I Coaching Course Wednesday, learning skills and getting pointers which will help bring development in the sport in the Commonwealth.

The successful coaches/players who each received a FIVB Level I Coach certificate from FIVB instructor and 10-time Australian Men's National Team coach Tomas Santamaria were Mili Saki, Russ Quinn, Laurie Peterka, Mark McDonald, Joe Taijeron, Tamiko Winkfield, Christopher Shepherd, Gabriel White, and Kim Peterson.

Saiki and Peterson coach teams at Saipan International School, while Winkfield and McDonald teach physical education at Saipan Community School and Marianas High School, respectively. Taijeron is also into coaching, volunteering his services to Mt. Carmel School.

Quinn was the coach of the CNMI Beach

See 10 GRADUATE on Page 42

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Participants in the FIVB Level I Coaching Course pose with FIVB instructor Tomas Santamaria, sixth from left, before the awarding of certificates Wednesday afternoon at Pacific Islands Club Seaside Grill in San Antonio.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
DCCA's Elias Rangamar goes for a reverse layup against two Department of Corrections defenders during their game in the PTI caging Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

DCCA wins two games in one night

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs survived two games Wednesday night in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League, outlasting the Department of Corrections and Legislature.

DCCA's two matches in one night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium were continuations of its power outage-halted games.

Corrections-DCCA tiff was first played on Aug. 21, but was suspended with 4:13 left in the second quarter when the power went off.

DCCA was leading, 40-28, and picked up where it left off at the resumption of the match, enduring DOC's final-quarter rally and pulling off an 89-83 win.

DCCA led by as much as 18 points in the third period, 69-51, but a stubborn DOC side worked its way back into the game in the fourth quarter.

Luis Iguel, Jefrey Quitugua, and Gregorio Blas teamed up in cutting DCCA's lead to as low as four, 80-76, with less than three minutes in the game.

But two technical fouls broke DOC's momentum, giving DCCA a chance to regain its bearings and keep the win.

Norris Kwon was charged with two technical fouls for complaining too much. Kwon was frustrated when referee Arnold Mesa didn't call a foul on DCCA, as Blas drove to the basket, made contact with his defender, and nailed an acrobatic shot.

Mesa was the lone referee in the match.

Kwo's infraction resulted to DCCA mak-

See DCCA on Page 42

Raging Warriors on September 27

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Trench Tech will hold Rites of Passage 5: Raging Warriors on Sept. 27 at the Trench Tech in San Antonio.

The mixed martial arts gym's president Cuki Alvarez said like previous Rites of Passage events, Raging Warriors will again serve as proving grounds for young talent looking to make it to the big show.

"This event caters to the first- or second-time fighter or fighters who have lost and are looking to redeem their performance and try to earn their way onto bigger more prestigious events."

Thus, Alvarez said all interested should sign up as soon as possible.

"All interested fighters and teams are urged to sign up now in all weight classes. This is your opportunity to earn your 'right to pass' and a chance to participate in Trench Warz IV: The Annihilation set for Dec. 6."

He added that Pacific Xtreme Combat, or PXC, is looking for top talent from the CNMI in various weight classes for upcoming PXC events in Guam.

"Trench Tech is the only link to making it to "the big time" and a chance to fight and make big bucks in PXC! Therefore, Rites of Passage is the perfect opportunity and proving grounds to showcase your skills and prove yourself!"

Tickets for Rites of Passage 5: Raging Warriors will be sold at $20 for all seating and it will be first-come, first-serve as far as seating arrangements are concerned.

See RAGING on Page 42

US dreams a little dream worth its wait in gold

By MARK HEISLER
(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

BEIJING—At long last, Dream Team II.

There was a time when people thought the Dream Team's successors would all get their own roman numerals, like Super Bowls, but that ended soon afterward, followed by the myth of the U.S. pros' invulnerability, until Sunday.

These Americans, who had beaten opponents by 32 points a game—and this opponent by 37—found themselves in an actual contest but won it by outlasting Spain, 118-107, to take home their first gold medal since Sydney, Australia, in 2000.

The U.S. had fallen in the 2002 and 2006 World Championships, so if it only took one Olympics off, this gold medal seemed like it was a long time coming.

Kobe Bryant, finisher extraordinaire, scored 13 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, but this was a collaborative effort from beginning to end when all 12 players came to the post-game news conference.

"We were at America's lowest point in '04," said Carmelo Anthony, one of four players on this team who took part in the debacle at Athens, Greece, where the U.S. lost three games.

"I think we did a hell of a job of putting America back where it's supposed to be, which is at the top of the world."

As becoming as the glory the U.S. team regained was the fact that it behaved so well, after years of arrogance and macho.

Its solidarity and its killer defense—at least until Sunday—might prove as hard for its successors to live up to as the Dream Team's legend has been since 1992.

On the other hand, the U.S. now has an actual program with an actual boss—former Phoenix Suns owner Jerry Colangelo.

Coach Mike Krzyzewski—who said he was "ecstatic ...

See US on Page 42